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THE TIMES

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MONDAY DECEMBER 27 1993

NSPCC challenges Bottomley

Home-alone children 'need tougher law'

By LIN JENKINS

VIRGINIA Bottomley was challenged last night to take urgent action to combat a spate of cases in which parents have left young children on their own.

Child care agencies, police and MPs demanded new child protection laws after nine children, one only a year old, were found on their own over the Christmas period.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) led calls for the Health Secretary to ensure that nobody under the age of 16 looked after younger children. The Labour Party also demanded more prosecutions

The plight of children who were left on their own over Christmas has brought calls for tougher laws and the promotion of responsible parenthood

of parents who left young children alone.

The pressure followed the latest case in which a nine-year-old girl was taken into care after her father left her on Christmas Day while he went out drinking. A 14-year-old babysitter returned home leaving the child, who had not eaten since the evening before, on her own in Leeds.

A social worker found the child in the house where there were no sheets on the bed. She was placed in foster care, and given clothes and shoes. The girl was presented with some of the gifts, handed in to Millgarth police station in Leeds, for three children who, in an earlier incident, were rescued from appalling conditions at home.

In Brighton, a two-year-old boy found locked in a filthy bedroom also spent the holiday with a foster family. His father was charged with cruelty and will appear in court in February.

Four more children were given to foster parents after they were found on their own on Friday in Sheffield. The mother of the four aged 12, ten, three and a year was released on bail by police.

As the NSPCC claimed that the number of calls about children left alone has risen to 60 a month, the charity advised that nobody under 16 should be left in charge of younger children.

The charity called for funding to find out the extent of problems over child care. Only on that basis could there

be a legal minimum age for babysitters and limit for a parent's absence.

An NSPCC spokesman said: "Nobody knows the extent of the problem, but the number of calls we have on this has risen to 60 a month. Leaving a child alone is not actually an offence, nor a category on the 'at risk' register." She said consideration had to be given to a legal minimum age for babysitters and the period of time a parent could be absent. The NSPCC says no child under 13 should be left alone and no child under 16 left overnight.

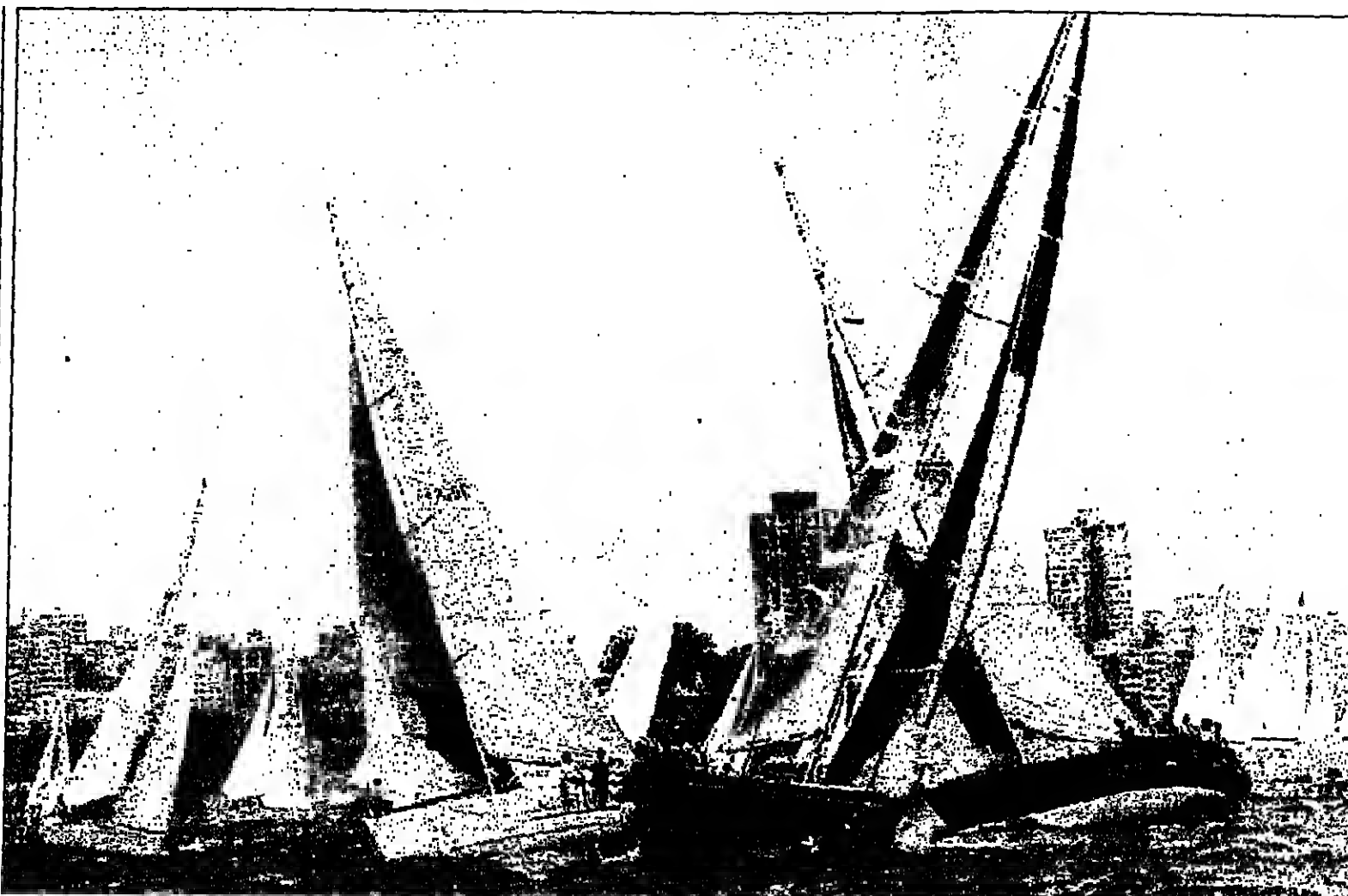
David Blunkett, Labour's shadow health secretary, accused Mrs Bottomley of failing to put across the message that the state and individuals have a shared responsibility for bringing up children.

"It is time for Virginia Bottomley to cut out meaningless papp and to accept responsibility for her own Government's failings... In Britain we have the lowest level of child care in Europe with the exception of Portugal."

However, Mrs Bottomley said the Government had discharged its part in the 1989 Children Act. A change in attitudes was needed through church and community, emphasising moral values and friends and neighbours playing a part.

She said: "Some parents simply cannot cope and they should be able to say 'Help, I can't do it'."

Archbishop of Canterbury, 14



Yachts jockey for position at the start of the Sydney to Hobart race yesterday. This year there are 160 boats in the three-day race. Page 19

Support from Major for love child minister

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

JOHN Major and senior members of the government yesterday stood behind Tim Yeo, the countryside minister, who has admitted to being the father of a secret love child.

Informed government sources said that the prime minister regarded Mr Yeo's admission as being a "purely private matter". Mr Major, it was made clear, was not calling on the minister, one of the government's rising stars, to resign.

However, the disclosure will be seen as a source of some embarrassment to the government because senior Cabinet ministers have highlighted the need to reduce the number of single mothers. Mr Major has made plain his distaste at ministers being hounded out of office because of disclosures in the tabloid press.

He supported Steven Norris, junior transport minister, in the face of calls for his resignation after the disclosure that he had affairs with several women. He also supported David Mellor the former heritage secretary, after demands that he should stand down because of his relationship with Antonia de Sancha.

Mr Yeo works under John Gummer, environment secretary and a leading Anglican churchman. But it was made plain yesterday by close colleagues that Mr Gummer does not believe their working relationship should be affected.

Former Tory MP Ivor Stanbrook, a constitutional lawyer, said last night: "If ministers cannot adhere to the moral standards they are preaching every day, they ought not to stay in office."

Mr Yeo admitted the relationship in a statement on Saturday. He said that he had

had an affair with Julia Stent, a Conservative councillor in Hackney, and was the father of Claudia-Marie who was born in July.

The statement issued through his solicitor, Peter Carter-Ruck, said that he and Miss Stent "had for some time a close relationship which developed into an affair".

The statement said: "We remain close friends and I have accepted responsibility for our child. My wife and family are aware of the extent of our relationship." Mrs Diane Yeo, — the couple have



Yeo: "An entirely private matter"

two children — is reported to be standing behind him.

He said that Ms Stent had decided not publicly to identify the father and "strongly regrets that, in order to put an end to speculation in some quarters of the media, she now finds it necessary to do so. I make this statement with her approval."

Mr Yeo, who is abroad with his family over Christmas, added: "I regard my relationship with Julia Stent as an entirely private matter which has no bearing upon our respective political duties."

Thatcher 'hates' her 24-hour security

By ALEXANDRA FREAN MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BARONESS Thatcher has given a rare insight into her frustration at the high personal security she is still forced to adopt more than two years after she ceased to be Prime Minister.

In a unique television documentary to be screened by ITV next year the former Prime Minister admits that she hates the restrictions on her personal life following the IRA bombing of the Grand Hotel in Brighton in 1984.

She says: "It constrains your activities very much indeed... If you are at home on a Saturday morning, you cannot just dash out around the corner to the nearest supermarket or to the local grocer, you have to have someone with you."

However, Lady Thatcher says she has no intention of giving up her high public profile, despite the threat to her safety from the IRA, because to do so would be to lead "only half a life".

Lady Thatcher gave the television crew unprecedented access to the members of Scotland Yard's A Squad who provide her with round-the-clock protection, for one episode of the six-part fly-on-the-wall series, *Scotland Yard*, which focuses on the undercover work of the Metropolitan police.

For the first time, Detective Chief Superintendent Eileen Eggington, head of Special Branch's "pro squad" and one of the most senior women in the Metropolitan police, gives an in-depth interview detailing the work of the A Squad, which is responsible for protecting figures such as Lady Thatcher and Salman.

Continued on page 5, col 1

Visas for Jamaicans likely, say critics

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

IMMIGRANT welfare officials yesterday predicted that the detention of a plane load of Jamaicans at Gatwick airport could presage the imposition of visa requirements on people travelling to Britain from the Caribbean.

A similar demand for visas was imposed on people from the Indian sub-continent in the mid 1980s following an influx of visitors from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Claude Moraes, director of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, said: "What we saw at Gatwick is the prelude to the Government insisting that people from Jamaica need visas before they

can enter the country." He said a climate of fear was being created in which Jamaican visitors were linked with criminal activities allegedly involving yardie gangs and drugs. "The government will use this climate to justify introducing visa requirements," he said.

As a Labour MP demanded that John Major confirm or deny that a special immigration operation had been mounted to deal with the Jamaicans, 27 travellers arrived back in Jamaica yesterday. They had been banned.

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Leading article, page 13

A Crown in danger



John Grigg reflects on the year that shook the monarchy and brought Australia closer to becoming a republic.

Scandals and secrets

It was Harold Macmillan's annus horribilis, the year we rediscovered satire — and the time of the Christine Keeler scandal, when the nation awaited each day's new revelations. Alistair Horne examines the newly released Public Records for 1963.

Also...

Triumphs and disasters. John Goodbody's Quiz of the Sporting Year.

Hostages released as gang flees with \$10m

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

FOUR heavily armed gunmen who seized a military helicopter and secured a \$10-million (£6.8 million) government ransom after kidnapping a group of schoolchildren and adults last night released the last of their teenage hostages and abandoned the aircraft in a remote part of southern Russia.

They took off from the spa town of Mineralnye Vody and landed shortly afterwards in the small town of Gerzhel near Makhachkala, capital of Dagestan on the next leg of their planned escape to Iran. There they released their remaining hostages, two military pilots, and abandoned the helicopter, fleeing with the \$10 million.

The gang, believed to consist of two Armenians, a Chechen and a Korean,

allowed the two 16-year-olds they had held since Thursday to leave the aircraft last night together with a bus driver.

The decision to release all civilian hostages was a sudden change of plan by the men. They had originally told Valentina Petrenko, the chief government negotiator, that they would only release the schoolboys if she agreed to replace them there as a hostage.

Army sharpshooters and elite Spetsnaz troops surrounded the helicopter throughout the weekend but the hijackers threatened to blow up the aircraft if any attempt was made to storm the aircraft. Russian television reported that they had told government negotiators they were suffering from AIDS and had nothing left to lose.

Seasonal weather causes havoc on Britain's roads

By EDWARD GORMAN

TWO fatal accidents and a 19-car pile-up were among a catalogue of Christmas accidents as freezing temperatures and snow hit much of the country.

Flooding was still affecting many parts of Hereford and Worcester and Shropshire, and weathermen gave a warning that it could get worse again tomorrow when warmer air is set to move in, bringing more rain from the west and a thaw on the hills.

About 100 British passengers on board the Brittany Ferries cruise ship *Britannia* had their return to Devon delayed by force ten gales in the Bay of

Biscay on Christmas Eve. After spending an unscheduled Christmas Day on board the vessel in the French port of Lorient, they arrived home early yesterday morning.

On the M6, police blamed black ice for a pile-up yesterday and for a series of smaller crashes as following cars ran into tailbacks. The accident caused a five-mile traffic jam on the northbound carriageway from junction 10 at Walsall. One man was taken to hospital suffering from chest injuries but his condition was not serious.

After another accident on the M25 near Gerrards Cross in Buckinghamshire yesterday, a mother and her eight-year-old son were air-lifted to

hospital. The boy had serious head injuries, the mother suffering from whiplash. Three other people were taken to hospital by ambulance.

In two earlier accidents, a 53-year-old man died when his car skidded on ice at Buntingford in Norfolk and a man was killed on Christmas Day in a crash at Seably in North Yorkshire.

While the Automobile Association reported a generally "very quiet" Bank Holiday Sunday, the organisation still rescued no less than 7,000 motorists who broke down on Christmas Day, most discovering that their engines had frozen up.

Unfortunately for the bookmakers, the snow made it to almost all parts of

the country at some point on Christmas Day, costing them around £75,000. Weather centres in London, Glasgow and Plymouth were the only ones not to report even a solitary flake of snow or a momentary sleet shower necessary for an official "white Christmas".

Not to be deterred William Hill opened its book on next year, offering 6-1 against snow falling on December 25, 1994. A businessman from Leeds was thought to be among the biggest winners after placing a £500 bet at

Continued on page 2, col 3

European storms, page 7
Forecast, page 16

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Patten considers nursery vouchers

John Major's drive towards full nursery education for all three- and four-year-olds may centre on a voucher scheme allowing parents to send children to state or private nursery schools. John Patten, the Education Secretary, is to study plans which would push Britain higher up the European league of education for the under-fives. Several plans are being drawn up by officials to add extra weight to the Prime Minister's aim of wider nursery education. Mr Major said last week that education for under-fives would be introduced across the country when it became affordable. However, the costs of bringing local authority provision into line with the best areas of the country are seen as prohibitive. The voucher system is regarded as a way of helping parents to afford nursery education, possibly through private nurseries. With the costs of providing universal state nursery education estimated to be more than £750 million, vouchers would allow greater flexibility than simply increasing the number of state-run nurseries.

Gretna sets a record

The Scottish village of Gretna, famous in the past for runaways' weddings, is marrying more couples than ever. Christmas Eve, with a further 21 marriages, the maximum possible in the new area register office in a day, brought the total so far for 1993 to 3,312 couples, an 11 per cent increase on last year's record. By New Year's Eve the year's total will be 3,360, and hundreds of couples have already booked for next year. Alison Quigley, the area registrar, said few couples realised that Gretna railway station had been reopened and most still took a taxi from Carlisle.

Royal Thalidomide plea

A Thalidomide victim, who has been on hunger strike since Christmas Eve to get a public enquiry into the drug, is asking the Queen for help. He wants her to take the Royal Warrant away from Guinness, which now owns the drug's makers, the Distillers Company, Freddie Asbury, 33, of Croxteth, Liverpool, who was born without arms and legs, was awarded £30,856 from the Thalidomide Trust in 1976. He says that lawyers miscalculated the level of compensation and wants a public enquiry into the affair and into the Thalidomide Trust.

Police to interview girls

The two girls raped by a gang of youths just off a busy street in southeast London will be fully interviewed today after being left alone for Christmas, police said yesterday. The girls, aged 14 and 15, had got off a bus in Rushey Green on Wednesday evening and were entering a burger bar when four youths asked them for cigarettes. The teenagers were then dragged into a nearby alleyway, where they were held down and raped by six youths while others looked on. Police said the two victims were white and the gang was mostly black but that it was not thought to be a racial incident.

Morris men out of step

A Morris dance group from Alford, Lincolnshire, is considering letting women join because of problems it is having attracting new members. It will meet next month to discuss the issue as an alternative to disbandment after 16 years. Some of the group have threatened to resign rather than see women join their ranks.

Boy rescued in error

Doctors have discovered that a Bosnian boy flown to Britain in an airlift of sick children has nothing wrong with him. Emir Nefic, 3, was taken to Birmingham Children's hospital with his mother for urgent leukaemia treatment. But after tests, the Health Department said he was well. The error will raise questions about selection procedures for airlifts.

Researchers needed

Research charities are worried by a drop in the number of students choosing science-only A levels who might go on to combat future diseases. The Research for Health Charities group appealed for more consideration of medical research as a career. The group believes potential recruits are being lured by lucrative posts in high-tech industries.

£2,500 a head: the sales tag on illegal human cargo

BY MICHAEL HORNSHILL

PACKED like sardines beneath a false floor in a box van, illegal immigrants are driven off the cross-Channel ferry into the fast-flow EC lanes at Dover only to be discovered by immigration officials suspicious of their vehicle.

Others similarly hidden make it through the controls before being abandoned outside the docks, where they are liable to detection because of their poor English and efforts to find the railway station. Those who make it beyond both initial phases of illegal immigration may be found months later working for a pittance in restaurants or on farms.

This increasing human cargo, now linked to organised crime, stirs sympathy in immigration officers, who detain the "illegals", and in

Special Branch, which is responsible for catching the "facilitators" who earn up to £2,500 per head for smuggling them in.

Det Insp Tony Masters, at the ports office of Kent police, said: "At their worst they probably haven't washed for 24 hours, perhaps they haven't eaten and at this time of the year their clothing is not substantial enough to keep out the cold."

"You can understand how they want to enter the UK. They have heard of a better standard of life and I don't blame them for trying. It's the organisers who need to be stopped."

In 1992, 14,951 illegal immigrants were turned back at ports and airports and 5,673 were detected inside the country. The statistics for 1993 will not be published until October, but if Dover reflects experi-

ence elsewhere there will have been a 160 per cent increase in the number of illegals detected trying to enter. In the same period the number of fraudulent EC travel documents detected has increased by 75 per cent.

The increase is partly due to confusion about the impact of the single European market, which ended internal trade barriers on January 1. Customs checks are less overt, but immigration controls continue to operate in accordance with the 1971 Immigration Act and passports have to be shown.

Charles Wardle, a Home Office minister, said: "Since the introduction of the single European market we have been keen to ensure there is no reduction in the effectiveness of our control of passengers arriving from other EC member states. We

intend to keep up the fight against this sort of traffic coming through Dover and other ports." Joint training programmes for immigration officers and police have been launched and sniffer dogs introduced to detect stowaways.

Mr Masters said: "Whether the increase is because people believe it's easier to enter or because the organisers see a way of making a lot of money with less chance of being detected now trade barriers are down, it's difficult to say."

"There's no doubt there is organised crime involvement. It's a cheaper racket than drugs and penalties are less severe. Bring in ten at £2,500 a head and you don't need to be a mathematician to work out how profitable it can be."

For every illegal caught entering, another ten are believed to get

through, which means that 150,000 may have gone undetected in 1992. Unofficial estimates put the cost to the economy at more than £1 billion.

Kent police have arrested 70 facilitators this year. They included people with British passports, but many are immigrants. Police intelligence sources, which are limited, suggest that illegals who are caught but keep silent about their facilitators are given at least one further attempt to enter the country.

More than 45 per cent of illegal immigrants removed from Britain are from Africa. 22 per cent from Asia, 17 per cent from South America and 10 per cent from Eastern Europe.

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Immigrants escape, page 3
Leading article, page 13.

Peace talks offer no respite to soldiers

BY OUR IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

"WE STILL have to walk the streets and fields, regardless of any peace process," the sergeant commanding a British Army patrol said.

While the 18,000 soldiers serving in Northern Ireland have been gripped by John Major's peace initiative, the servicemen and women need no reminding that they have to remain vigilant while the IRA stalls over the Downing Street declaration.

For Sergeant Guy (he did not want to give his surname) and 600 soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, on a six-month tour in Tyrone and Fermanagh, this means they will have to wait until the spring to celebrate Christmas at home. It also means regular and frightening patrols along the 103-mile stretch of the border policed by their battalion.

Sergeant Guy said: "Just after the peace plan was announced we were 300 to 400 metres from the border checking a crossing. It was soaking wet and we felt as if everyone was looking at us. It really brought home to us that while there may be talk of peace we have a job to do."

Sergeant Guy leads a four-strong patrol that has been policing Fivemiletown, Co-Tyrone, a small town where two RUC officers were shot dead by the IRA this month.

Lieutenant Mike Cooper, his commanding officer, said all his soldiers were curious but realistic about the peace plan. "It's top of the pops in discussion," he said. "Everyone, from privates to commanding officers, is reading newspapers. But three serious attacks in our area since we arrived in November have focused the mind that nothing has changed."



Forgoing the festive season, a British soldier patrols Fivemiletown, Co Tyrone. "While there may be talk of peace, we have a job to do," one said

Ulster on alert as ceasefire ends

BY NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

■ The IRA's refusal to extend the 72-hour Christmas truce signals its dissatisfaction with the Downing Street declaration

SECURITY forces in Northern Ireland returned to full alert last night as the IRA's three-day Christmas ceasefire was due to end at midnight.

The IRA showed no sign of moving any closer to the Downing Street declaration over the weekend, raising fears of a resumption of pre-Christmas attacks on members of the security forces.

Martin McGuinness, the leading Sinn Féin member who reflects IRA thinking, yesterday underlined the Republican movement's sceptical reaction to the declaration. In the Dublin Sunday Press he said Republicans were wor-

ried that the two governments were trying to dupe the IRA into an open-ended ceasefire. "We will be examining every sentence and comma and trying to read between the lines," he said.

There had been hopes that the IRA would extend its ceasefire beyond the traditional 72 hours but in a terse statement on Thursday night the IRA signalled its dissatisfaction with the declaration by announcing that its active service units would suspend

operations for only 72 hours. Mr McGuinness's comments came as Albert Reynolds, the Taoiseach, tried to defuse differences that have arisen between London and Dublin since the declaration on December 15. Within days London was said to have been irritated when Mr Reynolds raised the issue of paramilitary prisoners in the event of talks on the future of Ulster.

Writing in yesterday's Belfast Sunday Life, Mr Reynolds said: "We should not let our-

selves be sidetracked into the many questions that will have to be solved in the future. If we attempt to resolve them now, they could become a bog which would swallow up a peace process before it begins."

The Joint Peace Declaration... did not attempt to provide any predetermined political solution," he wrote. "It cuts the Gordian knot, and goes direct to the heart of the matter, seeking from everyone a clear and unequivocal commitment to peace and democracy as the first step."

As the two governments await the outcome of the IRA's lengthy internal consultation they could take comfort as Loyalist paramilitaries gave their support for the declara-

tion. Gunmen from the Ulster Volunteer Force who are serving sentences for murder said they were "pretty happy" with the declaration.

Billy Giles, who is on a week's home leave from the Maze prison, told The Sunday Times: "The guys in jail have looked at this document and the feeling is that there is nothing in there which is worth killing for."

The 60 IRA prisoners on home leave are expected to give their reaction tomorrow. They are one of the Republic's movement's key constituencies and are taking part in intense discussions about the declaration with their leaders during their week of home leave.

Seasonal weather road havoc

Continued from page 1
odds of 7-1. He planned to give his winnings away, dividing the bet into individual £1 coins and sending them out with Christmas cards.

Aberdeen was the only area to report a substantial fall of snow on Christmas Day, making for the best skiing conditions of the year on the Cairngorms. Aviemore's hotels were full yesterday as several thousand skiers enjoyed a sunny day and firm snow.

Despite the generally cold conditions with a widespread frost on both weekend nights, many of the usual Christmas-time stunts went ahead as planned, including an annual charity swim in the sea at Blackpool in which 50 people took part and a cricket match on a frost-covered wicket at Frocester in Gloucestershire.

British Rail yesterday defended its decision to shut down virtually its entire network over the Christmas weekend. Only the half-hourly service to Gatwick Airport from Victoria, the Thameslink service across London and the Victoria to Brighton service, were operational.

A BR spokesman said the shutdown had been a regular feature for the past 10 years. He said it reflected the fact that not many BR employees were prepared to work on Christmas Day and, in any case, there was little demand for train services during the holiday period.

BR will run limited services in the early part of this week, with more extensive schedules on Thursday and Friday. A return to the full timetable will not occur until next Tuesday.

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Visas for Jamaican visitors 'likely'

Continued from page 1
from entering Britain and returned to Jamaica on a Home Office chartered Boeing 767 plane on Christmas Day.

Max Madden, Labour MP for Bradford West, delivered a letter to 10 Downing Street calling for an explanation from the prime minister. He said: "I believe the way in which a number of people from the Caribbean were treated has been a travesty of natural justice."

A Home Office spokesman defended the decision to return them to Jamaica on Christmas Day. He said: "Immigration officials had reason to believe they would not comply with terms of temporary admission."

Of the remaining 190 out of 323 passengers detained when

the charter flight arrived at Gatwick airport on Tuesday 98 have been given temporary admission to Britain. 64 allowed entry and one person is to be sent back today or tomorrow.

Louise Christian, the solicitor acting for Peter Honegan, aged 29, whose case is to be re-examined, said that he had been treated "abysmally".

A right wing Conservative MP attacked critics of the authorities. Terry Dicks, Conservative MP for Hayes and Harlington, said: "The British Government has a right to send back anybody it wants from this country, especially if they are coming in under false pretences or are a threat to this society. I am sick to death of the bleeding hearts who want every Tom, Dick and Harry to come here."

Leading article, page 13

Bargain-hunters seek a place in the queue

BY ROBIN YOUNG

BARGAIN hunters were prowling London's West End from early yesterday afternoon, preparing to camp outside the most tempting windows to secure their pick of the winter sale reductions. Sales at many do-it-yourself and electrical goods stores have already started.

□ Sales dates: sales at the following John Lewis stores are from December 30 to January 8, not from December 29 as given in the Weekend section on Christmas Eve. Bristol (0272 279100), High Wycombe Furnishing & Leisure (0494

462666), Kingston upon Thames (081-547 3000), Milton Keynes (0494 694771), Peterborough (0733 344644) and Welwyn (0707 323456). Also at Bainsbridge, Newcastle upon Tyne (091-773 5000) Bains, Norwich (0603 660021), Calais, Windsor (0753 6241), Cole Brothers, Sheffield (0742 768511), Heelas, Reading (0734 579555), Jessops, Nottingham (0602 418282), Knight & Lee, Southsea (0705 827511), George Henry Lee, Liverpool (051-709 7070), Robert Sayle, Cambridge (0223 61292), Trewhin, Watford (0923 244266).

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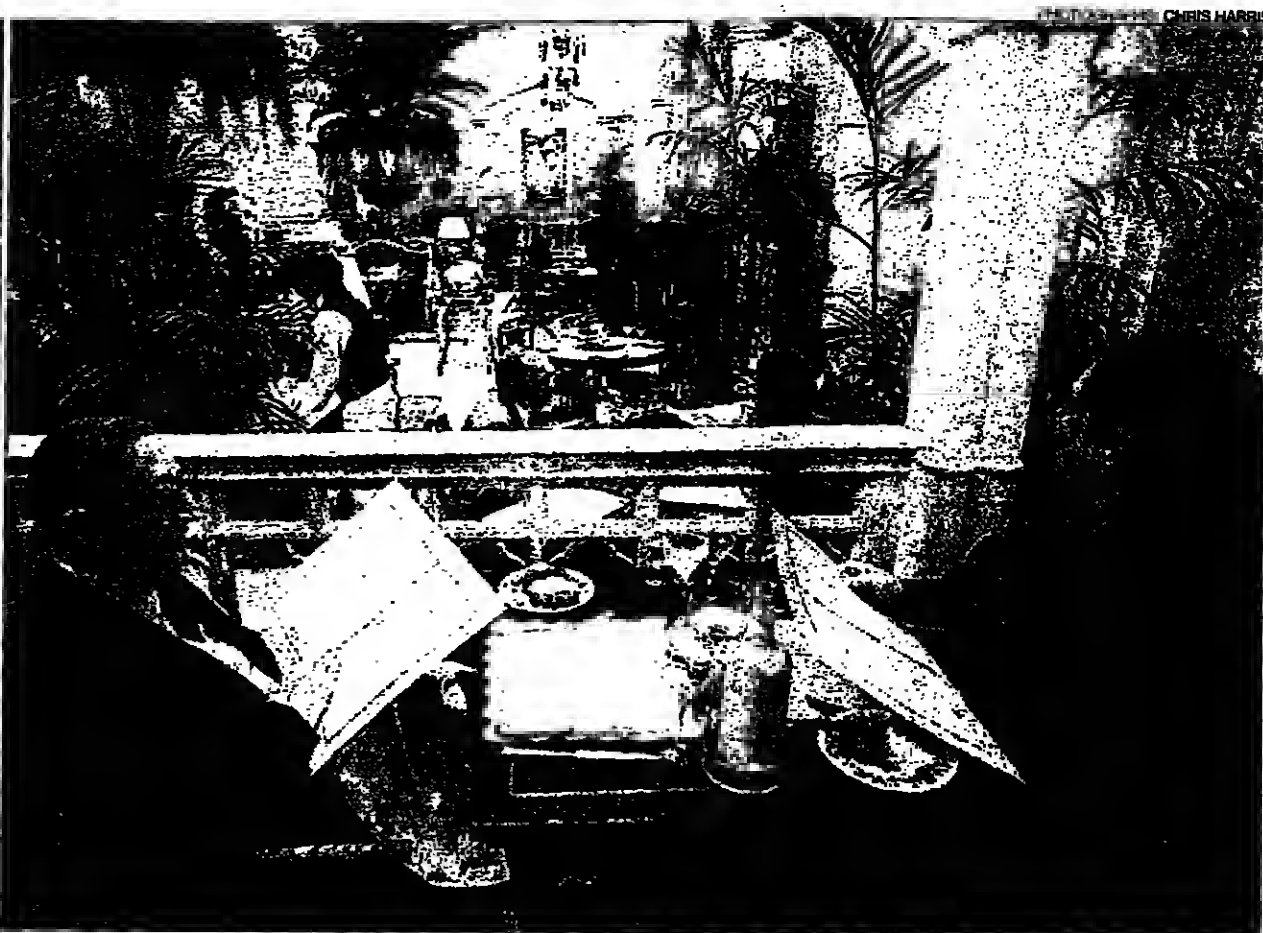
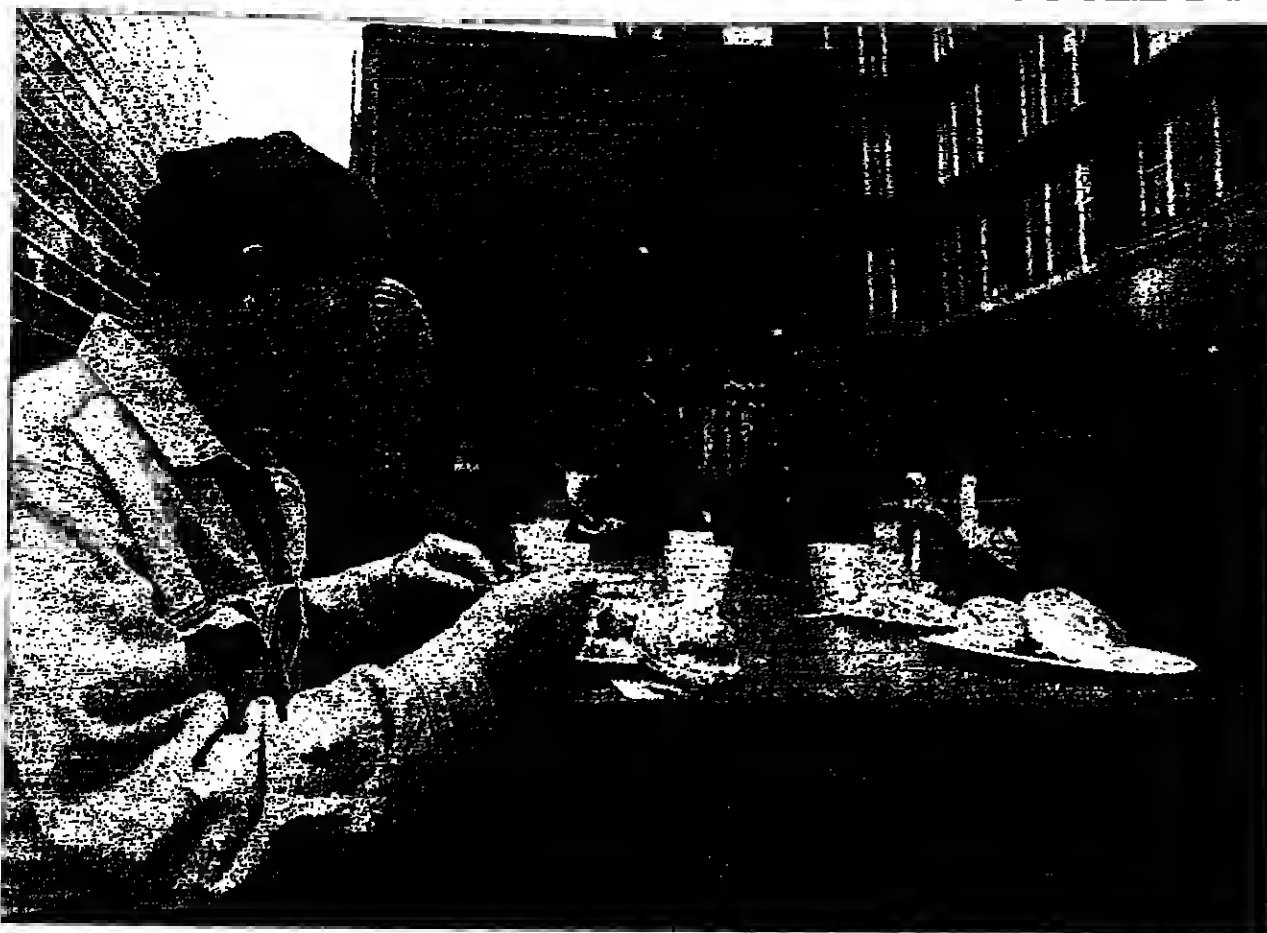


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هكذا من الأصل

Two tales of Christmas: seconds in the Conservatory, but nobody asks for more under Waterloo bridge



Some of London's homeless tuck into a free Boxing Day lunch provided by the charity Crisis near Waterloo bridge, while at the Lanesborough hotel at Hyde Park Corner the well-heeled paid more than £30 a head for a meal

Dickensian spirit haunts feasts of rich and poor

By ROBIN YOUNG

THERE were seats to spare at the makeshift tables set up yesterday by the charity Crisis beside the Waterloo bridge which serves as a camping site for many of London's homeless.

Mike Stratton, organiser of the mobile shelter, said: "We do have a spare we can set up if there is a rush, but we do not really get crowds. People tend to come in a steady trickle."

"It builds up during the week. We do not go and hunt them out. They will come to us if they want

to." Yesterday Crisis served 60 lunches during its three-hour stay at the Bullring. Last year, when the mobile service was started, it counted customers in single figures. This year's menu included turkey stew served with sausages, bacon, sprouts, potatoes and stuffing.

"It is all by courtesy of the Roman Catholic church in Kentish Town, which is our next stopping place," Mr Stratton said. "They gave us the surplus from their Christmas lunch and it has been chilled overnight and reheated."

Men with blue noses, bleary eyes and woollen bobbie hats tucked in

appreciatively enough. One wrapped a turkey drum stick from his plate in a piece of plastic salvaged from the street and thrust it deep into an overcoat pocket for later. Another passed a sausage to his neighbour. "I have to be careful what I eat," he explained.

A young woman with the sides of her head shaved was so cold or nervous that she could not hold her plastic fork steady as she ate. Nobody asked for more.

"I deliberately do not have any soup on this run," Mr Stratton said. "Frankly they get fed up with soup and sandwiches, even if that is just about all that some of them

can keep down." Mr Stratton's van provides emergency medical attention, hot food and drink.

"We get two or three medical cases a day," he said. "On Saturday there was one so bad from a mixture of alcohol and glue sniffing that he had to be sent straight to hospital. Some of them do get in a pretty poor way. We have packed one more off today."

The Crisis mobile, a converted 40ft truck, supplements the services provided in the charity's three main Christmas shelters in Pages Walk, Bermondsey, in Acton and a small women's shelter at a safe address. It expects to cope with the

needs of up to 250 people each day visiting in turn Deptford, Waterloo and Kentish Town.

It was less easy to find a place in the warmth and comfort of the Conservatory of the Lanesborough hotel at Hyde Park Corner. There, the management were not exactly giving food away, but well-heeled customers in couples and family parties clearly judged the Boxing Day brunch at £34.50 a head to be value for money.

As customers filed past a tree dripping with golden pears into a room full of palms and Chinese lanterns, John, the restaurant manager, was a little tense. "We are

really a couple of tables overbooked and completely full until at least 2.30," he confided.

When Lord Mexborough arrived with a party of ten, instead of the seven expected, he and his guests were obliged to wait in the drawing room while extra places were arranged. The tables were decorated with sprays of orchids, staff circled attentively, and Confire Phillips and His Music kept up a smooth accompaniment of soft jazz, including standards by Gershwin, Porter and Berlin.

Unlike Mr Stratton's, the Conservatory menu did include soup, chestnut and celery with croutons.

There was also a choice of hickory-smoked salmon, oriental crabmeat, smoked chicken and foie gras, champagne sorbet, a saffron risotto, grilled swordfish, crisp-fried Cajun seafood salad, duckling confit, barbecued lamb rack and traditional roast of the day.

Desserts included cappuccino brûlée, kirsch and macaroon parfait with warm cranberries, and apple and Christmas pudding strudel.

Though some appetites were modest, at other tables second helpings were shamelessly accepted. "We have really enjoyed it," a lady in a fur coat said as she left.

Scots urged to put Hogmanay revelry on a sober footing

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

SCOTS are being urged to reduce their drinking on Hogmanay and to join a three-day party.

Edinburgh is spending £200,000 in an effort to establish itself as the place to be for new year celebrations. It is hoped that the Hogmanay Festival will become an annual event and attract visitors from all over Britain.

Peter Irvine, director of Unique Productions, organiser of the event, said the idea arose from the European Summit last December which was celebrated with a number of events. "There was some concern that the outdoor activ-

ities would not work at that time of year but that proved unfounded," he said.

The Hogmanay Festival, which is expected to attract 50,000 people, hopes to provide an alternative to the traditional drinking binge, although on New Year's Eve there will be a bar open until 3am.

Mr Irvine said: "We organised Hogmanay parties in Glasgow at the beginning and end of 1990, when it was European City of Culture, and we discovered that if you give people a managed quality programme they do not drink themselves into oblivion."

People keep on drinking when there is nothing else to do and, while Hogmanay is a traditional festival in Scotland, New Year's Day tends to be a dead day. Nothing is open and there is nothing to do."

The festival will start on Thursday with a torch-lit procession through the city centre culminating in a giant bonfire and fireworks display.

On Hogmanay there will be a street party until midnight with live music and theatre, including performances by the cast of *Les Misérables* and the rock band Capercaille. Other Scottish bands will perform outside the National Gallery and there will be a classical concert inside St Giles' Cathedral. There will be a cello and latin dancing in the Assembly Rooms.

Events on New Year's Day will include a triathlon, drive-in cinema, children's theatre and jazz at the City Arts Centre. Most of the events will be free. The festival has the backing of the city's council, Lothian Regional Council, Edinburgh Tourist Board and Lothian and Edinburgh Enterprise.

□ The Scottish Blood Transfusion Service wants 1,000 fit and healthy people to stay sober during the new year celebrations in order to provide blood for hospitals in Strathclyde. If donors have drunk too much alcohol, their blood will not be used.

Teenagers sexually assault woman, 31

ONE of two youths who sexually assaulted a 31-year-old woman on Christmas Day is thought to have been as young as 13.

The mother of two was attacked as she walked home through a park in the east end of Glasgow after visiting friends, police said.

The youths, the elder about 16 or 17, repeatedly punched and kicked the woman in the face and body and hit her with a metal object. She was sexually molested before being robbed, and was left bleeding on the footpath in Auchinclea Park. The woman was later treated for cuts and bruises at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow.

Police said the elder attacker may have been scratched on the face and hands. The youths were thought to have had a brown mongrel dog with them.

□ A woman who falsely claimed she had been raped in a car on Christmas Day may be charged with wasting police time. The 21-year-old told officers three men dragged her into the car in the High Street, Stockton-on-Tees, and one raped her on the back seat.

But last night a Cleveland police spokesman said they were satisfied her allegation was false and that "rape did not occur". A file was being prepared for the Crown Prosecution Service.

Immigrants give Group 4 the slip

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

TWO Algerians were on the run last night after escaping from an immigration detention centre in Oxfordshire.

The two scaled a 25ft perimeter fence, jumped to the ground and ran away from the centre, which is run by Group 4. A third man who escaped with them on Christmas Day was detained in a hospital where he had gone for treatment for an ankle injured while jumping from the fence.

The three, aged 26, 27 and 28, clambered up the wire fence around Campfield Immigration Detention Centre at Kidlington, Oxfordshire, where they were being held

An escape by Algerians awaiting deportation puts the security firm's record back under the spotlight

awaiting deportation to Algeria. The unit also held the Jamaicans detained in an immigration clampdown on a charter flight from Kingston.

When the men escaped, police with tracker dogs were drafted in to the area around Kidlington after alarms sounded, but the men had disappeared.

The third man was detained at John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford, where he had gone for treatment to a broken ankle. Staff at the hospital alerted police and last night he was

back at Campfield after being collected by Group 4 staff.

The centre at Kidlington has been open for only four weeks and is operated by Group 4, the private security company. The firm was at the centre of controversy earlier this year when there was a disastrous start to its five-year contract for the first privatised courts escort service.

Eight prisoners escaped during the early weeks of running the service in the East Midlands and Humberside, making the company the butt

of cartoonists and comedians. In another incident a prisoner died while in the custody of the company. The company has also bid to run Doncaster prison, which is due to open next year, but did not win the contract to operate the inner-London courts escort service. Since then the company's performance has improved and officials say they are happy with the way Group 4 is operating.

Jim Harrower, Group 4 managing director, said the initial escapes had not always been the fault of the company. "We are a company based on reputation. We will bring that reputation back through our performance," he said.

Jamaicans return, page 1

Burglary shock may have killed pensioner

By ADAM FRESCO

A WOMAN pensioner is believed to have had a heart attack and died after her home was burgled. She was found by neighbours who called to take her for Christmas dinner with her husband, who is in a home.

Detectives, who have not ruled out murder, have appealed for the burglar to come forward. It is thought the intruder forced his way through a rear window into Hilda Redepennig's house in Hull at some time since last Thursday.

Edward Headspitt, whose wife Norma found the body of Mrs Redepennig, 70, a retired food process worker who suffered from asthma and had

a heart condition, said: "We were planning to take her to see her husband Bill. She would always be waiting on the doorstep for us but she wasn't there yesterday."

"We went round the back and my wife saw her through the kitchen window. The shock of having a burglar in the house must have been terrible. She was very vulnerable. If the burglar has any conscience he should give himself up."

Det Supt Alan Holmes, of Humberside police, who is leading the investigation, said: "Murder is a consideration that cannot be excluded until we know the exact circumstances of her death."

Flying twice as high



Estelle, left, and Elaine Moffat join Concorde

LIGHT-HEADED Concorde travellers have been seeing double on recent flights in the form of Estelle and Elaine Moffat, who are identical twins.

The women, 31, originally from Blackpool, joined BA in 1984 and flew together on Boeing 747s and short-haul aircraft before joining the Concorde fleet last month.

"When we flew 747s we'd stand side by side doing safety demonstrations and you could see the startled expressions on passengers' faces," Estelle said.

"Passengers often ask how we got to one end of the aircraft so quickly when they just saw us at the other end."

Estelle said that when she arrived for her Concorde cabin crew interview she was asked: "Haven't we interviewed you before?"

Since joining Concorde, the twins have flown on scheduled flights to New York, Washington and Barbados, on special charters to Lapland and Paris, and on the Children in Need Concorde charity flight that raised £45,000.

Hundreds queue for classless gongs

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of voluntary workers nominated for honours will be left waiting in the long queue of hopefuls to join John Major's "classless" awards list, as the first open nomination process for this year's list has been heavily oversubscribed.

Several thousand people responded to the Prime Minister's invitation for nominations, but only 100 additional rewards for voluntary work will be included on the New Year's list, to be published on Friday.

Officials in the Downing Street Honours Secretariat have struggled to deal with the deluge of nominations which followed Mr Major's attempt to open up the honours system. The awards will be the first New Year's honours since

a Whitehall review aimed at reducing the number of awards given to civil service "time-servers" and raising the proportion awarded to volunteers.

However, Mr Major's plans to strip away the system's class-bound structure have left the team of six officials struggling to sift through the mounting pile of nominations. They have had to leave some 200 potential recipients in a "pending" tray for future consideration.

The review will lead to the number of awards given to those working in the voluntary and charity fields increasing gradually over the next six years. More awards will also be given to those in the diplomatic service and those serving overseas, while fewer

will be given to civil service and armed forces personnel.

While there is always a large number of awards held over for future honours lists, this year's backlog is understood to be bigger because of the changes to the honours system. There is concern in Whitehall that the goodwill generated by the opening up of the honours system could be damaged if there are long delays between people being nominated and receiving their honours.

Officials have had to spend more time vetting nominations than in former years, when they were made through more formal channels. Within days of Mr Major's announcement of the changes, more than 1,000 requests for nomination forms

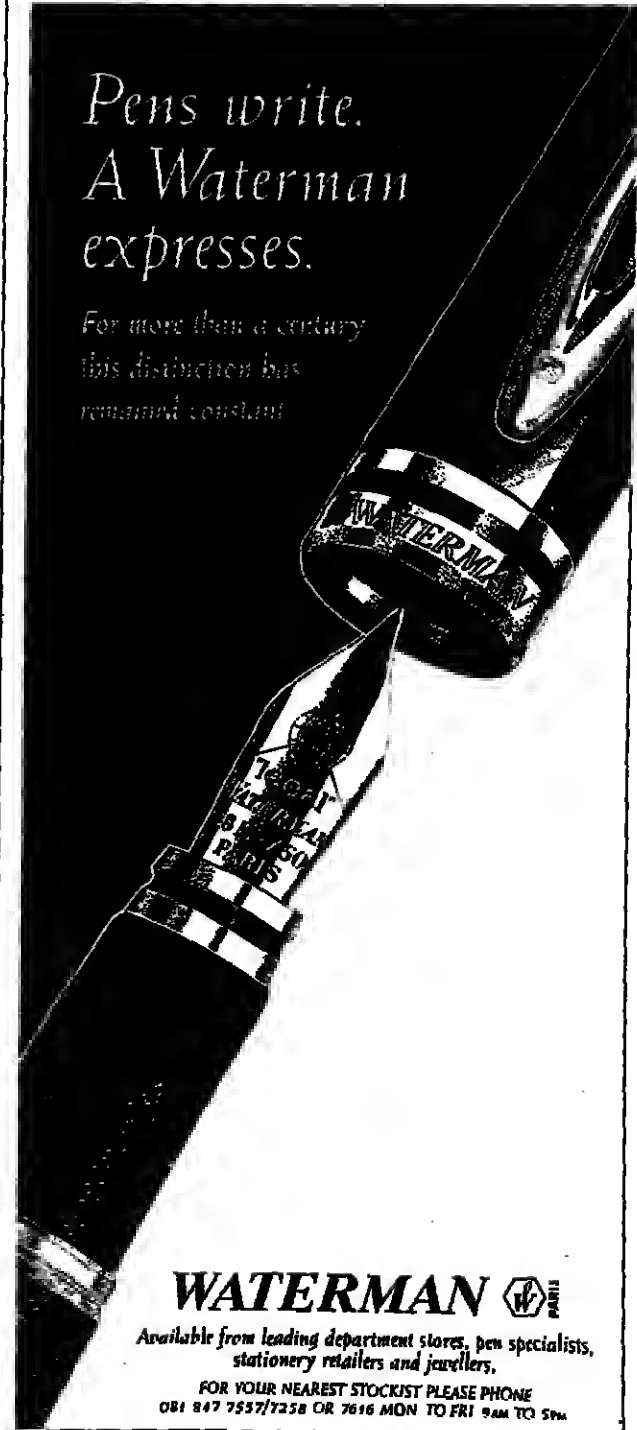
had been received by Downing Street and some 500 names a week are still pouring in.

Although nominations such as that of the Rev Ian Paisley by Mother Teresa have been easy to cast aside as spoofs, others have required lengthy checking, sometimes through complex channels. The officials have also had to spend more time ensuring a regional, ethnic and gender balance to the list.

The abolition, in the Queen's birthday honours list in June, of the "working class" honour of the British Empire Medal in favour of an all-encompassing Medal of the British Empire marked an early stage of Mr Major's attempt to remove social barriers in the honours system.

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BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

Crimmin: "stopped my brain atrophying"

Christmas play is a ghost story. *Returning Spirits*, adapted loosely from Dickens and complete with Edwardian costume and violin accompaniment. Ned Cox, the director, hopes to provide a full repertoire of plays: "Home theatre is definitely the thing of the future."

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'We are there to prevent them from being killed. Our first duty is to run away — not to fight'

Series throws light on shadowy world of protection squad

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

POLICE officers guarding Salman Rushdie are all volunteers because of the dangers they could face from a suicide attack on the author.

As the fifth anniversary approaches of the fatwa issued by the late Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran, the author remains a top priority in the protection squad run by Scotland Yard's special branch. Soon to be televised in a fly-on-the-wall ITV series, *Scotland Yard*, the squad has never lost a charge in 110 years and last fired a shot on duty 11 years ago.

All the VIPs protected by the "prot squad", the branch's A squad, can bring difficulties but Detective Chief Superintendent Eileen Eggington, head of the squad, said: "I think the officers protecting Salman Rushdie are under the greatest stress because the threat to them is almost as much as to him. An assassin would not be concerned about getting killed, and would take on the minders as well."

When Miss Eggington, head of the squad, started as one of the first women recruited for security duties there were few threats and terrorism was relatively unknown. After a five-day firearms course more than 20 years ago she protected the Queens of Greece and Jordan.

She said: "You picked it up and got a second sense. It was very low key. Now we are in it for real. There are times when news comes through of a heightened threat. The officers do worry about it. They would be willing to put their lives on

the line, but it makes them make even more sure it does not happen."

Yet the Yard still manages to operate at a low-key level compared with protection squads in many other countries. There are probably more security men and women in President Clinton's retinue than the whole of the Yard's squad.

The Home Office and the Yard operate a system of six levels of security depending on a threat assessment provided by MI5. Only levels one and two routinely get protection officers who cover the VIPs' daily movements. Their homes are protected by local police and technology. The Prime Minister, top ministers and visiting VIPs get full protection as a matter of course.

The squad has a pool of more than 50 vehicles, including an armoured-plated Rolls-Royce, which come with first-aid kits and body armour. "You can't put a Very Very Important Person in a Ford Granada," one senior officer said. The squad's armoury includes Glock automatic handguns, and Heckler and Koch carbines (a small number were introduced after the Americans wanted to come over with President Reagan complete with their own sub-machineguns).

The ideal recruits are in their 20s, although they can join up to their mid-40s, and must have served in special branch for at least two years. He or she has to be physically

fit, be an above-average marksman and have the right temperament.

"It's very important to be able to get on with the principal, his private office staff, his wife and family," said Miss Eggington. "They need plenty of initiative because there are no dot and comma rules on how to do the job, especially when protecting working people who don't always plan their lives. A lot of movements will be with very little notice."

The ideal qualities also include tact. "One of the worst things you can remind a VIP is 'today you are going to die'. Everything must be appropriate. The VIP has to trust you from the moment they arrive," said Detective Sergeant Terry Whidett, the special branch trainer. "If I say to you 'Minister. Run. Follow me' you must be prepared to do it and we will discuss it later."

"If you are special branch and you have the option, you run away and please take your principal with you. We are there to prevent them being killed. The first duty is to run away. The last thing we want is to have a fight. Protect the principal before a fire fight. If there is the slightest hint all is not well the first instruction is to go away."

Discretion is not only the better part of valour, it is also a prerequisite of these officers' lives. "I have been doing this for 15 years and I have seen and heard nothing," Mr Whidett said.

Thatcher's security, page 1



Scotland Yard officers in training for the A squad, a handpicked team of men and women who put their lives on the line every working day

Bodyguards trained at school of hard knocks

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

AT a whistle blast two officers crouched in front of their targets and sent a volley of bullets thudding into the cartoon bodies on the shooting range. "The crouch allows them to return fire and still cover the VIP," said Inspector Laurie Jayne, a trainer.

Halfway through a three-week induction course, candidates for the 150-strong protection squad run by Scotland Yard's special branch were being put through their paces on its ranges at Lippett Hill in Essex. Four of the trainees climbed into a bat-

tered white Rover. This time as the whistle blew they flew into position to repel an ambush. Two fired from the windows as the second pair scrambled outside.

"There are no VIPs to think about here," the instructor said. "It's your survival as a team of four. Everybody will be shooting at this." The trainer banged the car. "The cover is not as good as you think. If a car is attacked get out by the car for three seconds or so and then go. Don't stay in the killing ground."

During the training course, introduced in 1982 and derived from a longer SAS

bodyguard curriculum, the candidates begin with exercises in walking with their charges and covering their movements and then move on to more crucial areas of covering risk areas. Arrivals and departures are regarded as vulnerable times. The trainees learn to reconnoitre venues, liaise with local forces and prepare a plan of action for the aftermath of an attack, including the identification of safe houses should they be needed.

Drivers are taken from among the Yard's top drivers and then sent on the bodyguard course to learn special anti-hijack techniques. Dur-

ing the three weeks, the trainees will fire 1,000 rounds in almost daily practice and stand under the path of a 7.62 bullet to experience the distinct sound of a rifle being fired at them. By the time they graduate they must be able to turn on a target seven metres away, identify it as a threat, draw and put two shots into it within three seconds. The pass mark for shooting must be 70% or more. Overall only about one or two officers fail each course.

At Lippett Hill, the hopefuls struggled with one of the 60 or 70 attacks mounted during the course. A rubber grenade bounced by the

VIP's car. A quick-witted bodyguard kicked it aside as the team scuttled for safety. In the worst scenario they experience explosions, a dead driver and a torrent of fire from gunmen.

Everything is recorded by video camera and replayed with withering commentary. "Keep your hands off the VIP. You can't push him around. Don't walk backwards. You'll fall over," the trainer told the class.

Mr Jayne said: "They are to a certain extent expendable. They have to expect that as part of the job. Some gulp a bit but if they have any sense they have thought about it."

Thatcher 'hates' need for total security



Lady Thatcher on the move with protection officers

Continued from page 1

Rushdie, but not the Royal family. Miss Eggington refuses to contemplate a lower profile and safer existence, however. "You accept certain risks when you do this job and you feel better living a full life."

Makers of the programme for Thames Television were also allowed to film for the first time policy meetings of Scotland Yard's most senior officers, including the Commissioner, Paul Condon. They were given unprecedented access to officers of the Specialist Fire Office, in SO19, who are called in to assist in operations where weapons are likely to be used, such as sieges or robberies.

Scotland Yard is the latest in a series of television programmes aimed at bringing the inside workings of the

police to the public. Robert Fleming, who produced the series, said: "Our agreement with the Met was that we would give an objective account of anything we captured on film. The police only had the right of veto over things which might affect a police operation."

Mr Fleming has produced two previous ITV police documentary series, *Flying Squad* and *Murder Squad*. He said: "A lot of officers think there is a mystique surrounding Special Branch because of the intelligence work they do. They want to destroy the myth that they are all like Big Brother and show that they are ordinary people."

Scotland Yard begins on January 6 at 9.30pm on ITV. The episode on Lady Thatcher's protection will be broadcast on February 3.

Council suspends staff after mental test

By Adam Friesco

NINETEEN council staff have been suspended for failing a psychological test in which they had to answer true or false to statements such as "I have sensitive skin" and "I like Alice in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll.

They were suspended shortly before Christmas from Southwark borough council in south London and have been told to return on January 4 to discuss their future. They were escorted off the premises as soon as the test results were known without being told why. When one asked why he was being disciplined, he was told: "We don't want you to do any damage."

The workers, who earn an average of £18,000 in the finance department, had to answer true or false to 462 statements, which also included "I think I would like the work of a dress designer" and "Women should not be allowed to drink alone in pubs."

The Labour-run council is reorganising its finance department, which has 120 staff, in preparation for a £10 million privatisation programme early in the new year and has employed consultants to find ways of reducing staff numbers.

Chris Humphreys, London regional secretary of the public-service union Unison, said: "These sorts of question are wholly irrelevant to the council's work. This pantomime would be funny if the livelihoods of 19 people were not at risk." The council was not available for comment.

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Orthodoxy proves a poor soil for the shoots of liberalism

IN the 1980s, according to reputable authorities, religion was dead. Under the effects of Darwin and much else, churches started to lose faithful: Protestants in the lead, but others later on. However, God is not mocked, and the sequel has been interesting.

The politics of Calvinist, Catholic or Anglican countries continued to be rather different, even though the original faiths had declined in intensity. By and large, Protestant countries took to classical liberalism — and eventually universal suffrage democracy — better than others. Catholic ones differed (but there are endless qualifications, here and elsewhere in this theme). In Germany, the Nazi voters tended to be Protestant, the leaders Catholic in origin, but in Vichy France, the Huguenot mayors were more likely to give out false papers. However you account for it, old religious differences lived on into the politics of later, secularised generations.

There is one interesting and topical theme in all of this today: it is Orthodoxy. Everywhere in the formerly (or partly) Orthodox world, the accommodation to liberal democracy is proving to be rather hard work. National communism seems to be the order of the day. There is Serbia, under Milosevic, who has just had another electoral victory although his country is near ruin. There is Romania, where Ilescu slipped into Ceausescu's shoes. There is Ukraine, under Kravchuk, the one-time ideology chief turned nationalist. And now there is Zhirinovskiy in Russia. Bulgaria seems to be doing well enough, but in general these countries are not producing flourishing democracies.

The contrast with Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia (at least in this writer's opinion) and the Czechs (perhaps not the Slovaks) is plain: the once-Orthodox countries are making a far heavier job of parliamentary institutions than the Catholic countries.

What can be said about such questions? Here you run into prodigious difficulties. First, many of the people involved on the ground will dismiss the question out of hand. The priests, for most of the time, have nothing to say about politics, and the politicians are not in anything beyond superficialities Orthodox.

Then again, what is the political and social side of Orthodoxy? At least with Western Christianity there is a vast literature dealing with religious attitudes to the things of this world. The Polish historian, Bronislaw Geremek, made a serious attempt at the problem: a

Emerging countries with Orthodox faiths are finding it difficult to accommodate liberal democracy, Norman Stone writes

history of poverty and charity in the Middle Ages in which he asks why a religion that was supposed to be about respecting the poor lost, for so long, to the political and anti-clerical Left.

But with Orthodoxy, there is not such a literature; rather, there is the music and there is Dostoevsky answering questions in fiction. The nearest that we have to social or political comment would be Nikolai Berdyaev or Vladimir Solovoyev and the Orthodox revivalists associated, in the last years of tsarist Russia, with a famous collection of essays, *Veliki (Landmarks)*.

But most of the essays in that book are incantatory, leaning towards spiritualism, and seldom offer any contribution towards day-to-day reality. They were written in response to the failure of the 1905 revolution, and the repudiation, by much of the Russian intelligentsia, of their

The Times Essay

Orthodox tradition. But a political programme, they are not. There is even an argument to the effect that the mechanisms of Orthodoxy, its contempt for the material world, led straight into communism.

Of course no Church can be truly anything-goes liberal. But there are degrees of toleration for others. These include degrees of respect for the things of this world, and differing attitudes towards money or rights. These attitudes translate into political groupings, which may not even recognise their own religious ancestry.

On the whole, Protestants said "Me", and Catholics said "Us": attitudes towards the family, towards banks and businessmen, towards the black economy, follow. Liberalism, by and large, was Protestant in origin again. I accept severe qualifications where necessary. But the secular thought of Orthodoxy is far less developed. Almost, its ways follow its liturgy: the priests conduct much of the service behind an iconostasis, interrupted by interruptions into the congregation. There are few rules, but you are not

allowed to fold your hands behind your back because you might be concealing something.

There was never the same secular organisation as in the West. This showed, in tsarist Russia, most importantly where the schools were concerned. In the Calvinist world, the church tends to be a grim, bald box, and there is smaller, grim and bald box next to it marked "school", where literacy is practised.

Protestant countries produced more than their fair share of engineers and bankers. But schooling was far less developed in old Russia, as was parish organisation in general. There were exceptions, but they depended to a large extent upon heretics — the Old Believers.

Orthodoxy did not much bother with the minor virtues — prudence, punctuality, thrift, sobriety — at which Calvinists and some Catholic orders were good. The Dostoevsky of Karamazov regarded these minor virtues as somehow contradictory of bigger ones, leading the faithful down a foolish path, away from religion.

Orthodoxy had prodigious strengths: its architecture, since Byzantium, distinguished in a style not shared by the secular side.

But in the end, Orthodoxy was weakened, in its capacity to adapt, by involvement with the state. Peter the Great in Russia weakened it as an independent body, and, to the end of the tsarist empire, it did not act as churches have sometimes done in the West — representing a civil society, independent of the state, or even as a counter to it.

Under communism, it was a point of warmth in a cold world, and it had its heroes. But its record of resistance was much less impressive than that of the Catholic church, and in Romania or Russia, many of its clergymen were in league with the secret police.

Of course there are clergymen today who learn from the past of Orthodoxy, and may even turn it in the direction of the civil society from which Peter the Great divorced in three centuries ago. But will the once-Orthodox countries turn easily towards liberalism and democratic institutions? The past is not encouraging.

Norman Stone is professor of modern history at Oxford University.

Queen attends Sandringham carol service



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and the Queen are driven to church while the rest of their family walk

Royals gather for family Christmas as poll finds 73% against Civil List

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE Royal Family attended a carol service at the church of St Mary Magdalene in Sandringham, Norfolk, yesterday. A crowd of 450 watched as most of the family walked a quarter of a mile from Sandringham House. Only the Queen and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother were driven to the church.

The Prince of Wales was accompanied by his sons, Prince William and Prince Harry. The Princess of Wales left Sandringham on Christmas Day after attending church watched by a crowd of 1,000. Her absence was blamed by onlookers for yesterday's low public turnout.

The Prince of Wales talked and joked with members of the public, with his sons by his side. He noticed that Colin Edwards, the Royal enthusiast, was minus his usual red, white and blue millinery. "You haven't got your patriotic hat on today," he remarked. Those who walked to

Some who gathered outside the church of St Mary Magdalene blamed the absence of the Princess of Wales for the low turnout

church in the cold, crisp air included the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of York, Prince Edward, the Princess Royal, Commander Tim Laurence, Peter Phillips, Zara Phillips and Viscountess Linley. Of the walkers, only Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, eschewed wearing a coat: she chose a black suit instead.

The only absentee, among those staying at Sandringham House for the traditional Royal Family Christmas, was Princess Margaret.

The Queen was handed bunches of roses, chrysanthemums and carnations, which her grandchildren Prince William, Prince Harry and Miss Phillips relayed to the boot of her Daimler. Bernard Cole of Stowmarket, Suffolk, who was among the crowd, said: "There

aren't so many people because Diana isn't here. A lot of people come just to see her."

The Duchess of York and her children, Princess Beatrix and Prince Eugenie, were staying at Wood Farm House, in the grounds of the Queen's estate. They are expected to be invited to lunch with the Queen today before leaving tomorrow.

The Duke of Edinburgh will begin a five-hour pheasant shoot today, and the Queen will escort female members of the family on a horse-riding expedition.

According to an opinion poll published in *The Observer* yesterday, most people believe the Royal Family should cease receiving any financial support from the Exchequer.

The *Observer/ICM* poll found a total of 73 per cent of

those surveyed wanted to end the £7.9 million a year Civil List and associated payments of nearly £1 million to the Duke of Edinburgh and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

However, most people favour retaining the monarchy. Two-thirds prefer a hereditary Queen or King as head of state: 20 per cent wanted an elected president with 10 per cent supporting the Prime Minister in the role.

The monarchy is trusted by 32 per cent compared with the Church (54 per cent) and the police (44 per cent) and the present Government (11 per cent). Support for the succession to the throne by the Prince of Wales has slumped to 56 per cent from 67 per cent in six months. A large majority, 77 per cent, said the monarchy had been damaged by recent controversy. The press was blamed by 64 per cent for the Royal Family's problems.

The *Queen's speech* and sermons, page 14

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drunken driver kills relative

A motorist who killed a relative when he crashed into a parked car on Christmas Eve gave a positive breath-test, police said.

The dead man, aged 66, of Moston, Manchester, was spending the holiday with relatives in the West Country. He was in the front seat of the car and died at the scene of the accident in Glastonbury, Somerset.

The driver was taken to hospital with a minor head injury. A police spokesman said: "He was a close relative of the dead man and is very upset. He gave a positive breath-test to officers at the hospital." The man is likely to be charged later.

River victim

A man is thought to have drowned as he rowed across the Thames to collect mail. The wife of Ray Legg, 72, spotted that the dinghy was empty after he left their houseboat at Henley, Oxfordshire.

Baby injured

A 48-year-old man will appear in court at Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, today charged with the attempted murder of his 14-month-old son on Christmas Eve. The baby suffered serious head injuries.

Turkey reprieve

The RSPCA is to find a home for a turkey that was captured by a dog warden after a last-minute attempt to escape the Christmas table at Eastbourne, East Sussex.

Hoax charge

Kimon Gasparatos, 35, of Athens, is to appear before magistrates today after a bomb hoax on an aircraft that flew into Gatwick on Christmas Eve.

Pier plunge

Peter Morris, 33, of Llandudno, Gwynedd, died when he fell 30ft onto rocks through a section of the resort's pier that was being repaired.

PC dies on duty

PC Richard Ellerker, 42, collapsed and died while on the night shift at a police station in York. He was married with four children.

Stuffed birds

Animal-lovers have been banned from feeding ducks on a pond at Copner, Hampshire, because they have become overweight.

Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings premium bonds weekly draw are £100,000, number 235F 423002, holder from Northampton (value of holding £6,070); £50,000, 114K 28962, Buckinghamshire (£6,150); £25,000, 23CW 901612, Kent (£19,997).

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Lost for words in the battle to beat a secret disability

By RUTH GLEDHILL

A PERSON who lacks the ability to speak is too often regarded as stupid because their disability is "secret" and invisible, according to a young adult who has suffered a language impairment all his life.

But with speech therapy and other help, Patrick Hewes has been transformed from "one of the helpes", his father said last night.

Mr Hewes, 26, the youngest of four children, has struggled for most of his life to overcome his difficulty in understanding language and the concepts that under-

pin the use of speech. He is now able to hold down a full-time job as a hospital porter, and through the charity Afasic he helps other youngsters who suffer a similar disability.

The Times is appealing for donations to Afasic, a charity for overcoming speech and language impairments. More than 500,000 children and young people are thought to suffer

such disorders, and often no other intellectual or physical disabilities are involved. In Patrick's case, his two elder brothers were a television producer and an architect, and his sister a doctor.

Mr Hewes' father, the Rev John Hewes, rector of Lydd in Kent, said the family had had to put up "an awful fight" to get the proper therapy. Patrick, who did not receive special tuition until he was 13, describes himself as "aphasic", meaning he has lacked the ability to understand or find the right words from birth.

In his written life story, he says his disability is similar to dyslexia, which causes spelling and reading difficulties. Understanding is limited, and finding the right words "is a complete nightmare".

He says: "Aphasia is still not very well known about. No one knows exactly what causes someone to have it or exactly what it is. What is known is that the speech is 'disabled' because the part of the brain which controls speech is damaged."

He says making friends is particularly hard, and leaving home and school can be "a devastatingly lonely business". But despite his disability, he achieved five CSEs at school, has barely been unemployed since then and spent four months touring Australia before starting work at the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street, London.

"The handicap itself is a 'secret' handicap, it is not immediately obvious that anything is wrong, and the aphasic person is regarded as stupid," he said.

I would like to help children and young people who have speech and language impairments:

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KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Short shrift

TOP players occasionally feel the urge to experiment with offbeat systems. Today's games show how dangerous it can be to try provocative methods as Black against strong opposition. In this game the climax of the attack was White's rook sacrifice on move 21. If Black accepts with 21... Bxa6 then 22 Qe4 leads to a decisive onslaught.

White: Vladimir Akopian
Black: Stamen Agdestein
Groningen, December 1993

Ruy Lopez

1 e4	g5
2 Nf3	Nc6
3 Bc5	g4
4 Ba4	b5
5 Bc3	Nb6
6 O-O	d6
7 Qd4	Nb6
8 Bxb3	g3
9 Nc3	Bg7
10 Qe2	Bg7
11 dxc5	h5
12 Ng5	Nf6
13 f4	Qe7
14 Bx5	dxc5
15 Nd5	Nxd5
16 Bxc5	Bxd5
17 Ne4	Bg7
18 Bf4	O-O
19 Bg7	Qa7
20 Rxa6	Bg7
21 Nc5	

Diagram after White's 21st move



Modern Defence

1 d4	d5
2 e4	g6
3 Nc3	Bg7
4 f4	Nb6
5 Bb5	
6 Bxc6+	bxc6
7 Nf3	Bg4
8 O-O	Qb6
9 h3	Bc3
10 Rxd3	Qb6
11 Bc3	Qb2
12 Bf2	Qb7
13 f5	g5
14 Rf1	Qc6
15 Nd5	Nf6
16 c4	Kf8
17 Bc5	Nc5
18 Qd5	Qc5
19 Kf1	Bd8
20 Rf3	Rd8
21 Rf8	dxc5
22 Qf3	

Black resigns

White: Eric Lohron
Black: Zurab
Azmaiparashvili
Groningen, December 1993

Azmaiparashvili is one of Kasparov's seconds but he surely has been horrified to observe him hunting down a wing pawn with his queen at the expense of development.

White: Eric Lohron
Black: Zurab
Azmaiparashvili
Groningen, December 1993

Diagram for final position

Black resigns

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Artillery attack cuts power and water to joyless residents of Bosnian capital

Sarajevo unhappy with West's search for stricken children

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

ARTILLERY shells delivered an unwanted Christmas present over the weekend, cutting Sarajevo's two power lines, telephones and sporadic water supplies.

The city's last remaining main power line, one of more than a dozen that served the city in long-lost prewar days, was knocked out on Christmas Eve by a shell. The line had provided enough electricity for each district to receive a precious few hours every 72 hours — enough to provide water and heating on a rotating basis.

Among other consequences, the loss of the line will force residents to spend perilous hours exposed to shells, snipers and cold, waiting in water queues or running errands otherwise done by telephone. Even when the phones are not inoperative, they work only within the city. Lines to the outside world were severed in July 1992.

Christmas Eve was full of angst in Sarajevo. Shells rained down, snipers whistled past sending residents hurriedly scurrying for cover. Before leaving my hotel in the morning, there was little

question of what kind of day it was going to be. The sniper had been covering the exits of the hotel for the preceding few days and had woken me up before my alarm clock. Then I noticed the heavy shelling. Christmas Eve was no different from the preceding three days. It was a bad day to search the hospitals for wounded children awaiting evacuation. The doctors were even more short-tempered than usual and the halls were clogged with dead and dying.

Periodically, since August, teams of doctors and packs of journalists comb the city, searching for children in need of medical evacuation. Great effort is expended with great urgency and tremendous media attention.

The irony that less care is directed towards preventing children, such as five-year-old Irma Hadzimiratovic — the girl now in Britain, whose death throes sparked the rush of children's medical evacuations — from being shot or shelled in the first place, is lost on no one in Sarajevo, particularly the doctors. They gripe their teeth and smile, welcoming the half-measure

do-gooders because a few lives and limbs will be saved, but their anger is not that well hidden.

"Life in Sarajevo is not one child in front of a TV camera, it is the city he belongs to," Dr. Salihudin Dizdarevic, the chief of child surgery at Sarajevo's main Kosevo Hospital, said.

"Look at this," he said, holding up a copy of the morning's *Oslobodjenje*, the city's daily newspaper. A banner headline proclaimed the previous day's score card: 12 killed, 81 wounded. He carefully points out that 18 of the 93 total were children.

All the attention given to the children gives some Sarajevans the impression that people in the West do not mind the slaughtering of civilians, as long as the children are physically unharmed. Many foreigners have the same impression. "I will give you a very beautiful girl to write about she lives in what was once a very beautiful suburb," he said with a touch of mockery. Dr. Dizdarevic has seen too many maimed and suffering children to be sentimental.



Sarajevans sprinting across a main road as Serb snipers ignore the Christmas truce and open fire from positions in the hills overlooking the Bosnian capital

Storms and floods ravage Europe

BY EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THREE Spaniards yesterday became the latest victims of the weather battering north-west Europe, killed when their house collapsed in storms.

Three days of heavy rain and snow caused a landslide in the Asturias region in northern Spain, which brought the house down. The storms also blocked roads and mountain passes, and about 80 skiers in the Pyrenees were stranded by an avalanche.

In Barcelona, firemen answered 200 emergency calls last night as gales brought down trees, power lines and hoardings. Similar conditions kept emergency services busy in Valencia and Alicante.

In Germany, The Netherlands and Belgium, thousands of people who had to flee water-soaked homes at Christmas began cleaning up after the worst flooding in decades.

Rivers began to recede in the heaviest-hit areas of southeast Netherlands and low-lying parts of Germany and Belgium where at least seven people died in the run-up to Christmas. Freezing conditions made roads treacherous over the weekend. Dutch and Belgian police reported 42 accidents, including one near the Dutch city of Breda in which three people died.

No official damage estimates have been given, but a spokesman for the Dutch Internal Affairs Ministry said the bill in The Netherlands could exceed £35 million.

Emergency workers said that the worst of the flooding

was over and people were starting to return home. Water levels in the southeast Dutch region of Limburg were falling slowly, and the threat of floods from the Rhine surging northward along the river IJssel in the northeast was under control.

In Germany, people were able to start cleaning up as flooding from the Rhine receded rapidly and streets in the old part of Cologne, hip-deep in water just days ago, became passable.

Belgian officials said water levels were dropping throughout the country, but they said that at least a week without more rain or snow was needed before water levels could get back to normal.

French authorities closed a section of motorway beside the Seine in central Paris after a slow but steady rise in the river, and inhabitants in the northeastern town of Soissons were told to boil tapwater before drinking it.

The Dutch government has declared the floods a national disaster and charities launched a joint appeal to raise cash for the victims, who face severe hardship as insurance cover for flooding is almost impossible to get in the Dutch lowlands.

A number of the 12,000 people evacuated in Limburg were able to go home after authorities judged that the worst danger had passed.

British floods, page 1
Picture, page 16

Belgrade aims to end poll deadlock

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

SERBIA'S Socialist Party was hoping last night that the country's electoral stalemate was about to be broken. The country's fate depended on 20,000 voters, or less than 1 per cent of the electorate.

They were voting in polling stations where, because of irregularities during the general election of December 19, the vote had to be restaged.

That result yielded a hung parliament with the Socialist Party of President Milosevic gaining 123 seats, three short of a majority. Since then the country has remained paralysed politically because no serious talks on coalition or minority governments can begin until the final result.

Experts believe that yesterday's reruns in 45 polling stations out of 8,887 may change the electoral outcome by one or two seats but are still unlikely to give the Socialists the majority they want. Cynics believe that, if the Socialists are determined to win a majority through ballot-rigging, then this is their last chance.

Meanwhile in the self-proclaimed Republic of Serbian Krajina reruns were taking place in presidential elections. Two weeks ago Milan Babic, a former Krajina President, trounced Milan Martić for the post. Mr Martić, Krajina's fearsome chief of police, cried foul and 50,000 voters were voting again yesterday.

Serbs condemn Times reporter

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE Serbian regime of President Milosevic has refused to extend the press accreditation of Dora Trevisan, who has been *The Times*'s correspondent in Belgrade for more than 30 years. The veteran journalist has also been heavily criticised in the official Serbian press.

The moves against Mrs Trevisan come 18 months after she was shot in the hand in a Belgrade street in an attack which she and observers suspected was carried out by Serb extremists. The Serbian press is heavily regulated and independent journalists have come under increasing pressure and harassment from the Belgrade regime since war broke out in the former Yugoslavia.

The *Times* has protested to the Serbian government about the refusal to renew Mrs Trevisan's accreditation, but has not received a reply. Mrs Trevisan, 68, who now has no visa to remain in the country, travelled to Britain last week and may find it difficult to return to the Serbian capital which has been her home for decades. She is of mixed Serb and Croat parentage, but has been a British citizen since renouncing her Yugoslav citizenship after the Second World War.

Two articles criticising Mrs Trevisan in the Belgrade daily *Politika*, contain factual errors, including the statement that she was shot two months before the attack actually took place. The newspaper also accuses her of partial-

ity and attempts to denigrate her in Serb eyes by describing her as a native of the Croatian capital, Zagreb. However, her family fled the city when the Ustashi came to power in 1941.

Richard Owen, Foreign Editor of *The Times*, said yesterday: "We immediately protested about the refusal to accredit a long-standing and distinguished correspondent, who has covered Eastern Europe for more than a quarter of a century. No explanation has been received."

Politika said the reasons for not extending Mrs Trevisan's accreditation were not difficult to understand. "They lie in the texts which everyday she sent to her newsdesk," it said. "Her work... was given to political tendentiousness." A second article says Mrs Trevisan, "the long-time correspondent of *The Times*, has become persona non grata in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. At the end of this calendar year the Federal Ministry of Information did not extend her accreditation, and with this a visa for extended stay in our country."

Last night, Mrs Trevisan said: "I have left the country and I do not know whether I will be allowed back. I have been covering Yugoslavia since the 1950s and there have been ups and downs but I have never been attacked in this way. I feel very sorry for the honourable Serbian journalists who are trying to do their jobs."



Trevisan: targeted

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Intelligence claims over North Korean arsenal divide US officials

CIA says Pyongyang has nuclear bomb

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
IN WASHINGTON AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AS Boutros Boutros Ghali, Secretary-General of the United Nations, was visiting Peking yesterday to try to defuse a crisis over North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons programme, it was revealed that the US Central Intelligence Agency and other sources have concluded that North Korea is already in the possession of one or two nuclear bombs. The classified assessment was immediately denounced by State Department officials as an alarmist worst-case scenario.

The UN chief arrived in China after travelling to South and North Korea. Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, told him that Peking opposes sanctions against North Korea and that it felt the issue should be settled through negotiations.

The Chinese news agency, Xinhua, said Mr Boutros Ghali briefed Mr Li on his journey through the Korean peninsula. "China favours a proper settlement of the issue through dialogue and consultations, instead of imposing pressure and sanctions," Mr Li said. He reiterated China's call for a de-nuclearisation of the entire Korean peninsula.

The secret CIA document and the State Department's sceptical response underline the difficulties faced by American intelligence agencies to assess accurately and interpret other countries' nuclear weapons programmes. But the leaking of the report, and its conclusions, are bound to add urgency to efforts to persuade Pyongyang to open up its nuclear facilities.

The State Department, according to *The New York Times*, is playing down the implications of the report, which it fears could undermine its own efforts to find a



Boutros Boutros Ghali shown the northern side of the border near Panmunjon by Choe U Jin, the North Korean Deputy Foreign Minister

diplomatic solution to the conflict. This came to a head earlier this year, when North Korea prevented international inspectors from examining its seven nuclear facilities.

The Pyongyang government has since softened its stance: first by opening up five of its plants and then recently the remaining two, although there are still a number of unresolved problems, including whether inspectors are allowed to visit waste dumps.

The report's conclusion is not based on a single clear-cut piece of evidence, such as a spy satellite picture, but on a series of indications that confirm the theory that the country has developed one or two bombs. Among those is the detection

near a nuclear site of a crater which could have been the result of a nuclear test. The site which attracts most of the suspicions is located 60 miles north of Pyongyang at Yongbyon and includes a nuclear reactor.

The CIA report, according to *The New York Times*, concluded that North Korea has a "better than even" chance of having developed at least one nuclear bomb. The report also challenges the wisdom of economic sanctions as a means to force compliance, arguing that sanctions could even trigger the use of these bombs on South Korea. The CIA estimates that North Korea has extracted 12 kilos of plutonium, enough for two bombs, if

put together under the most favourable conditions.

The State Department and the intelligence agencies are at odds, however, whether optimum conditions apply in this case. The State Department challenges the notion that North Korea is capable of producing a crude bomb with as little as 12lb of plutonium, the minimum amount needed, putting into question North Korea's technological sophistication of extracting nuclear fuels. There are also suspicions that the intelligence agencies are unduly alarmist for fear of repeating their mistaken assessment of Iraq's weapons programmes ahead of the Gulf War. Western agencies have at best an

imperfect idea of evaluating foreign nuclear weapons programmes, due especially to the technical limitations of spy satellites.

The Clinton administration has come under pressure from Congress to ban the export of nuclear waste from Switzerland for reprocessing in Britain. Under a commercial contract with America, the Swiss government is seeking from the US Energy Department permission to ship used nuclear fuel to Britain's new Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant, otherwise known as Thorp, where the plutonium would be extracted and later shipped back to Switzerland for commercial use.

In their letter to Hazel O'Leary, the US Energy Secretary, a number of Democratic congressmen, including Nancy Pelosi from California and Joseph Kennedy from Massachusetts, wrote that "the United States does not encourage the civil use of plutonium. Its continued production is not justified on either economic or national security grounds, and its accumulation creates serious proliferation and security dangers".

Mr Clinton has recently rejected a call by congressmen to block the start-up of Thorp, and he is unlikely to upset the British and the Swiss governments by preventing the proposed deal.

Leading article, page 13

Afrikaner right's hopes fade in bluff and bluster

■ ANC and National Party strategy of keeping recalcitrant rightwingers talking appears to be working. The reality is few militants have the stomach for a fight

FROM R. W. JOHNSON IN DURBAN

Collapse of last week's deal between the African National Congress and the Afrikaner Volksfront for a separate white homeland again has led many to wonder if this is not a hopeless project. The talks foundered partly due to lack of enthusiasm for such a deal on the part of President de Klerk's National Party (NP), which would like Afrikaners to look to itself for salvation, and partly because of resistance within the ANC.

Such reactions are, however, muffled by the apparent strategy of both ANC and NP to box and coax their way through to the election, keeping their rejectionist opponents within the Freedom Alliance involved in negotiations of one kind or another in the hope that talking will keep the Volksfront, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and other homeland leaders vaguely "in the game".

This tactic, it is hoped, will make it difficult for them to withdraw into open conflict before the election — and will thus get them over the hump into the new South Africa, when they will have very little option but to come to terms, reluctantly, with the new reality.

The strategy is tailored to the tactics of the white right, which consist in continually drawing lines in the sand and threatening war if they are crossed — and then, when they are crossed (for example, when the Transitional Executive Authority was set up), drawing up a new line further down the road and emitting even more violent bluster about the consequences if that line, too, is crossed.

The political reality is that not many whites, however despairing of black rule, they may be, have much appetite for a fight. In a sense the whole meaning of "new South Africa" is that the white morale and will to sustain the old South Africa have collapsed. This is not a mood in which hopeless wars are begun or new Israel is founded.

Various schemes for a white homeland exist — in the far northern Transvaal, in the Orange Free State, in the eastern Transvaal or in the northwestern Cape. The latter presents the best bet, purely in terms of a largely empty area, virtually devoid of blacks and almost wholly Afrikaans-speaking; but it is arid and would require Herculean efforts at desalination and irrigation to make much of it.

Moreover, with oil prospecting off the northwest Cape coast now a possibility, no ANC-led government will be in a hurry to surrender that coastline. In any case, while the Volksfront talks boldly of being willing to "give away" the gold and diamond mines, it seems psychologically impossible for it to part with the sole Afrikaans-speaking city, Pretoria: last week's abortive deal centred on a Boerestaat consisting of Pretoria and parts of the eastern Transvaal.

Such a scheme is nonsense. Pretoria draws its life and wealth almost wholly from the fact that it is the seat of government. But if it is to be part of a white homeland all those ministries would, by definition, have to relocate elsewhere. A new government would hardly be quick to pay the costs of such an enormous relocation, and if it did Pretoria's economy would collapse. The only reason why the Volksfront came up with such a crazy scheme is because so many of its supporters live there and it cannot bear to tell them that if they want a white homeland they must move to the Cape.

That would mean Transvaal and Free State conservatives, often lower-middle-class people dependent on public-sector employment, would have to trek south to face dramatically higher property prices and worse job prospects. Probably only large-scale violence could produce such a migration.

But that is the rub. The ANC does not really wish to detract from the unity of the South African state by offering a white homeland at all, and the more significant, and thus viable, a piece of real estate is involved, the more unwilling the ANC is bound to become. Such a concession will only be made if the ANC and others are convinced that it is the only alternative to really large-scale violence.

Hence the white right must threaten such violence continually to have a hope. At the moment its threats are merely being treated as bluster, which may be all that they are. If they are serious about wanting a white homeland, they will probably have to show that their threat of major violence is real.

It is far from clear that even the white right has the stomach for that.

Burst water main gives Washington a dry Christmas

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

AFTER a 48-inch thick water main burst, Washingtonians were subjected to a Christmas without water, the second time this month that America's capital suffered an acute water shortage.

The accident, which highlights Washington's decrepit water infrastructure, could not have happened on a worse day. Since all the shops were closed during the Christmas holidays, local residents could not — as they usually do — flock to the nearest supermarket and empty the shelves of bottled water. Liquor stores could not help either — they were also closed for Christmas.

Worse still, the break of the water main coincided with the onset of heavy snows and icy weather in the capital and there were not enough police to handle both crises adequately.

On the evening of Christmas Day, normally one of the quietest days of the year, Washington's main access roads and its beltway orbital road were jammed with cars full of people trying to get home after the celebrations. Vehicles were stuck in the snow or sliding on the ice.

A journey from the nearby Maryland suburb into the centre took almost three hours as passengers frequently had to get out and push their cars uphill on icy roads.

The police concentrated their sparse force on the burst water main leaving the traffic chaos to sort itself out. The main is one of Washington's chief supply lines and in parts is about 100 years old. The water fountain that gushed out was more than 12 feet wide and 20 feet high. A sudden drop in temperature to below

zero is thought to have caused the burst in the old pipes.

Washingtonians are getting used to life without running water and many already hold large stockpiles of bottled water in their cellars. Earlier this month, the capital's main water treatment plant failed leaving a million people without drinking water. Yesterday's burst main affected about a third of Washington, 120,000 homes mainly in the inner districts. Sharon Pratt Kelly, the mayor of Washington, said that "a lot of our pipes and systems are very old, built at or before the turn of the century".

One resident, whose house would normally have fallen well within this area, was not affected. President Clinton has his own water supply in the White House. He distrusts the local water as much as his neighbours and has stockpiles of bottled water, from Arkansas of course.

The supply was restored in the early hours of the morning. A spokeswoman for the public works department acknowledged that "this was a major break affecting about one-third of the city. Fortunately we have been able to isolate it and there are only a few areas where services have not been restored."

□ Poll results: Americans admire Mr and Mrs Clinton more than anyone else, including their relatives, according to a poll by CNN/USA Today. The President received an admiration rating of 20 per cent, while among the women Mrs Clinton scored 22 per cent. Baroness Thatcher was also among the top five women with a rating of 8 per cent, just ahead of former First Lady Barbara Bush but behind Mother Teresa.

Police issue IOUs in gun-swap deal

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A CHRISTMAS offer to exchange guns for toys in one of New York's "most violent neighbourhoods" has been such an unexpected success that its sponsor now wants to continue it throughout the year, with new incentives such as groceries, clothing, basketball shoes and concert tickets.

A total of 299 guns were swapped for \$100 (£67) toy-shop gift vouchers at the 34th precinct police station, in a crime-infested stretch of upper Manhattan, by the deadline for the four-day programme — midnight on Christmas Day. The scheme, launched by a retailer at the suggestion of his teenage son, proved so popular that police ran out of gift certificates and for a time were forced to hand out IOUs until new sponsors were found.

The initial \$5,000 to cover

the first 50 guns in the scheme — which Raymond Kelly, the New York Police Commissioner, has called the "Miracle of 34th Precinct" — was put up by Fernando Mateo, the owner of a local carpet shop. Besides the obvious Christmas publicity aspect, it seemed a serious attempt to combat crime in the poor, violence-ridden neighbourhood of Washington Heights.

Other businesses put up a further \$20,000, including \$10,000 from the Toys 'R' Us chain. Now the precinct is seeking more money to pay for the IOUs and continue the programme through to the end of the year, a police spokesman said.

Police in the precinct, where there have been 65 murders so far in 1993, had collected only seven guns all year under an existing city-wide gun amnesty which pays up to \$75 in

cash to people who turn in their weapons. But, wary of the "boys for guns" programme spread fast after it began last Wednesday, and gun-owners hurried to redeem their weapons for gift certificates.

By the end of Christmas Day, police had 15 milk crates full of assorted handguns and a cupboard full of rifles. And hundreds of erstwhile gun-owners were shopping for Christmas presents with their gift vouchers at a local toy shop.

The weapons surrendered ranged from a broken hunting rifle and three antique pistols, to a one-bullet pistol disguised as a pen and a sub-machinegun. A delighted Mr Mateo said he wanted to set up a year-round "gun-bartering" programme.

"I want to reach out to corporate America now," he

said. "If kids know they can turn in their guns for sneakers, clothing or airline tickets, they'll do it."

At the precinct, the growing cache of weapons spanned generations and types, but police refused to accept toy guns which some people attempted to exchange.

Jose — who did not want to reveal his last name or profession — surrendered a semi-automatic handgun. "I guess I probably still need it," he told *The New York Times*. "But this thing is too good to just let go by." His daughter, he said, "wanted a doll house, but it was too expensive. With this money I'll be able to do it now".

Official records show that almost 129,000 New Yorkers have permits to own pistols or rifles, but police estimate that there are about two million guns on the city's streets.

Nobel writings feared lost in fire

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A CHRISTMAS Day fire razed the Hudson river home of Toni Morrison, the black American author who won the 1993 Nobel prize for literature, possibly destroying some of her original manuscripts.

Ms Morrison, 62, whose lyrical novels of black American life include *Beloved*, *Jazz* and *Song of Solomon*, was not at home when flames engulfed the three-storey riverside house just after 9am on Christmas morning. Her son Slade, 28, said the fire began when a spark from a fireplace ignited a couch. He tried unsuccessfully to fight the blaze before escaping unharmed to call the fire brigade.

By the time the first fire engine arrived at the house, which lies on the banks of the



Firefighters battle to put out the blaze at the home of Toni Morrison, the Nobel Prize-winning author

Hudson river 15 miles north of New York. Flames had already consumed half of the timber building.

Homes like Ms Morrison's sell for upwards of \$300,000 (£340,000). The author, who was divorced in 1964 from Harold Morrison, an archi-

tect, has owned the house for more than ten years.

"We went in the unburnt portion and tried to keep the fire to the rear half, but it was pretty much of a futile effort," said Paul Wannamaker, the local fire chief. "The fire had too much headway." One

firefighter was treated for injuries to his neck when a portion of the ceiling collapsed. A second firefighter suffered some minor burns on his neck.

According to Mr Wannamaker, Ms Morrison, who teaches at Princeton University, arrived at the house about two hours after the blaze "and mentioned she had manuscripts on the premises". The author "was pretty upset, but she was handling the situation the best she could", he said.

The fire chief said he had advised Ms Morrison not to enter the ruined building to search for the missing manuscripts. He added that "there's a possibility these manuscripts may have been in an area protected from fire".

Mr Wannamaker said that, as a matter of routine, the Rockland County arson squad would investigate the fire.

Hundreds die on South Africa roads

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

FOR the first time in three years, South Africa has experienced a Christmas almost free of political violence, but the carnage on the roads has left traffic authorities in despair. Between December 1 and the end yesterday of the Christmas season, which coincides with the main holiday period, 550 people had been killed.

Nearly 40 per cent of fatal accidents were alcohol-related, the Ministry of Transport said in Pretoria.

Police said they were suspending foot patrols in Alexandra township, north of Johannesburg, after a black constable was shot dead on his beat yesterday, the fourth murder of a policeman in the township this month. In

future, police will only patrol with an escort from the Internal Stability Unit, which the African National Congress is insisting should be withdrawn from the townships. Another black policeman was shot dead on Christmas Day on the East Witwatersrand.

More than 70 people have died on the roads since Thursday. The Traffic Safety Directorate said: "We have given warnings about nauseam on speeding, overloading of taxis, safe following distances and drunken driving, but motorists have not heeded them."

A Transport Directorate official said: "Drivers have taken to travelling late at night or very early in the morning to avoid traffic officials."

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Cuba limps down the capitalist road under tax burden



Jackson: on a Christmas Day visit to Havana

FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN MIAMI

MARKING a further retreat from communism, Cuba is embarking on an austere economic course with a new round of reforms to be presented to Cuba's National Assembly later today.

The capitalist-style package coincides with a visit by the Rev Jesse Jackson, the civil rights leader and most prominent American politician to visit Cuba in the country's 34 years of revolution. It is his second time in Havana in ten years; in 1984 he secured the release of about 40 political prisoners.

The Communist Party officially abolished Christmas 25 years ago, but for those who still remember what the festive season was like, there was little to celebrate this year. On Christmas Eve, Cubans

President Castro plans an austerity package, signalling a capitalist-style rethinking of policy. Economists believe it is too little and too late

were told through the state newspaper *Granma*, that the central committee of the Communist Party, headed by Dr Castro, had approved a series of economic stabilisation measures, including massive lay-offs in state-run businesses, hefty cuts in state subsidies, and the gradual introduction of income and property taxes.

Starting today, the National Assembly of Popular Power, which meets twice a year, will hold three days of discussions, before giving its traditional rubber-stamp approval of the measures. Cuban officials had hinted at the reforms for several months.

but hesitated over their implementation, fearing the political and social costs of what amounts to a drastic capitalist-style rethinking of economic policy.

Taxes will be a new experience for Cubans who are used to being provided with everything by the state, although cutbacks have forced severe rationing of food and clothing, while public services such as electricity and transport have been reduced. Most state factories are idle, with workers kept on to do what are officially described as "repairs". Many employees have been sent home on 40 per cent of their

salaries, amounting to less than \$2 (£1.35) a month. If they have not found a new job in three months, they are told to make agricultural jobs or lose their benefits.

Analysts remain sceptical about the direction of economic reforms, which began in July when it became legal to trade in American dollars. But observers are beginning to look at the measures more seriously, noting signs of profound and irreversible change.

Economists believe the reforms may be too little too late, in the face of a devastating economic slide in the three years since Cuba lost crucial financial support from the former Soviet bloc.

"They know they have to move toward the market from a centrally planned economy. The question is how far and how quickly," said Carmelo Mesa-Lago, an economist at Pittsburgh University.

Cuba gave further evidence of its intentions when it invited two officials from the International Monetary Fund to inform leaders about the transition experiences of Eastern Europe. Cuba does not belong to the IMF or the World Bank and has been a fierce critic of such international financial institutions, accusing them of impoverishing the Third World to benefit rapacious Western investors.

A summary of the IMF visit warned that "time is running out" and urged swift reforms. It added that the Cuban government has decided that maintaining its inefficient, centrally planned economy "would inevitably rupture the social fabric, with all the remaining accomplishments of Cuba's political and social model disappearing in the wreckage".

But Washington remains unimpressed, arguing that economic reform must be accompanied by political freedom. In keeping with his tough stand on human rights, Mr Jackson has another list of dissidents he hopes to free, including Fidel Castro's granddaughter, whose mother, Alina Fernández, defected to America last week.

But Mr Jackson's advocacy of human rights is matched by his attacks on Washington's out-moded, Cold War policy. "I would hope that as the US looks at its policy towards Cuba that just as the case of Mexico, the case of China, we would use aggressive, constructive engagement on economic policy in pursuit of political change," he said. "The logical conclusion of trying to suffer Cuba into change could have a devastating impact... if the suffering and shortages were to induce violence and a struggle with this country."

China chips away at Mao colossus on birthday centenary

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

WITH Christmas officially banned, Boxing Day in Peking focused on celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Mao Tse-tung. The celebrations, however, were filled with nuance and code understood by Chinese to mean that, while Mao had been a great man, they were now better off without him.

This ambiguity was seen in the press and in the carefully choreographed celebrations in Peking's Great Hall of the People, where 10,000 officials and a selection of Mao's relatives gathered to praise the man whose campaigns caused the deaths of hundreds of their colleagues and sent many of those present into years of internal exile.

Jiang Zemin, the state President and party General Secretary, managed to convey two messages at once: quoting Deng Xiaoping, Mr Jiang noted that "what we are doing now is what Comrade Mao Tse-tung put forward but did not do, rectifying what he wrongly opposed, and doing well what he had not done well".

Mr Jiang also repeated one of the most obscure of Mr Deng's remarks: Mao's mistakes were those of a great revolutionary and a great Marxist. This phrase occurred first in the party's 1981 judgment on Mao, that Mr Deng had overseen, in which it was stated that the Cultural Revolution was the "greatest catastrophe" to befall China since 1949 and that the man chiefly responsible was Mao.

In a further ambiguity, the official press hailed Mao but omitted important signs of great honour, like publishing his picture on their front pages and printing their headlines in red. And their leading articles urged their readers to honour Mao, not by reading his works

but by studying those of Deng Xiaoping.

Christmas was banned, according to the national press, together with Valentine's Day and All Fool's Day, in order to combat Western-inspired "spiritual pollution" and to concentrate on "the outstanding national life of China".

On Christmas Eve, President Jiang unveiled a huge statue of Mao in Shaoshan, his birthplace, and bowed Peking. China said it had found part of a satellite that broke up in space after its launch on October 8. But the Xinhua news agency made no mention of the satellite's commemorative cargo — a Chairman Mao badge set with 44 diamonds to mark Mao's December 26 centenary birthday, which was expected to attract high bids at an auction back on Earth. (Reuters)

before it. In the Shaoshan museum, among the many rooms exhibiting scenes from Mao's life, however, nothing is shown of the Cultural Revolution — 1966-76 — or of Mao's fourth wife, Jiang Qing, leader of the Gang of Four, who committed suicide two years ago in her prison cell. Museum attendants fall into embarrassed silence when asked about the excluded exhibits.

Marking Mao's birth has presented the present leadership with a challenge: how to praise the man who has done great harm to China and to many millions of its citizens — and often to many of the leaders themselves — without raising questions about why they had served him so loyally and seemingly without question right up to his death in 1976? To attack Mao directly would cast doubt on commu-

nism itself, which the party insists is the faith and discipline which justifies its continuing leadership.

Certain problems, therefore, had to be ignored: the great famine of 1959-61, which cost between 25 and 50 million lives, and earlier violent campaigns, such as the anti-rightist drive of the late 1950s which victimised well over 500,000 intellectuals, sometimes for more than 20 years. This is an especially sensitive subject, because the party's General Secretary of the time was Mr Deng, who has always maintained that the anti-rightist campaign was necessary, if overdone, and is himself the beneficiary of a current personality cult.

In such an atmosphere of double-think and un-fact, nothing can be too bizarre. Inside a cave in the southern province of Guangxi, which one penetrates by boat, there is a 39ft-high rock formation described as looking just like Mao with his hair swept back; on Hainan Island, Mao's daughter Li Na (whose mother was the unmentionable Jiang Qing) has praised a particular mountain she insists is a "perfect likeness" of her father flat on his back.

The least plausible praise came from Tibet where, although the Chinese occupiers are widely despised, the *Tibet Daily* asserted that so widespread is "the Mao craze" that Tibetans hang the Chairman's image next to Buddha's.

Like a Bodhisattva, a person able to reach the state of nirvana, the paper reports, Mao is regarded in Tibet as one of those sacred beings, "the kindest, the most benevolent and the most intelligent, of boundless beneficence who resides in heaven", for whom holy water is offered and butter lamps are lit.



Dressed in Mao suits, Chinese pose in front of a portrait of Mao Tse-tung in Peking to mark the centenary of his birth

PLO looks for compromise deal

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI and Palestinian negotiators are to resume talks in Cairo today in an increasingly desperate attempt to unlock the stalled negotiations that have paralysed prospects for peace.

Although negotiators in the space of three months have moved the venue of their talks from the Egyptian resort of Tabu to Cairo, Oslo, Paris, and now back to Cairo, none of the locations has produced the breakthrough needed.

Yesterday Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, arrived in Cairo for talks with President Mubarak, who is attempting to mediate on several issues before the negotiations. "I hope to receive tomorrow positive answers from Israel on the questions we have put to them in Oslo and Paris," the PLO leader said.

Senior Israeli and Palestinian figures are predicting that a compromise would be found on the three key questions that have delayed the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. The two sides disagree on who will control the future borders of the Palestinian self-ruled entities, the size of the Jericho enclave and the scale of the Israeli military presence in Gaza.

"I believe that the most important issues will be solved on Monday," said Faisal Husseini, the most senior PLO official in the occupied territories, who identified the main problem as defining the overall powers of a Palestinian transitional government.

At yesterday's weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, ministers were informed that Israel would be willing to offer

compromise solutions, including doubling the size of the Palestinian entity in Jericho and offering the PLO a symbolic role in border controls.

However, the Israelis have made it clear that ultimate authority on who and what is allowed into the Palestinian areas will remain in their control. Yossi Sarid, the left-wing Environment Minister, who is part of the Israeli delegation, said: "If there will be no meaningful progress in the current round in Cairo, it will be a very bad sign for the negotiations."

He was referring to the damage that the delay has caused among Israelis, whose confidence has been shaken by a campaign of violence and intimidation orchestrated by militants in both communities. Many Israelis are concerned that Fatah, the

mainstream PLO faction loyal to Mr Arafat, will not be able to keep order in areas where militant Palestinians are emerging as the dominant force.

On Friday the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, ambushed an Israeli military vehicle in Gaza, killing a colonel and injuring a major. □ Marjaveen: Pro-Syrian guerrillas fired machineguns at Israeli-allied militiamen in south Lebanon yesterday, killing a senior militia commander and wounding two civilians, security sources said. The attack took place on the coastal Hamra passageway which separates the western sector of Israel's self-designated "security zone" from the rest of southern Lebanon. The Amal movement, comprising Shia Muslims, claimed responsibility. (AP)

Blonde dancer's fast footwork rescues palace of flamenco

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

For two centuries, the 18th-century palace in Calle Amor de Dios near the tapas bars of Plaza Santa Ana in Madrid has shuddered to the stamp of feet, echoed to the clatter of castanets and the humming rhythm of the Spanish guitar. The huge stained mirrors in the studios have dimly reflected the fiery dancers of Spain's most famous flamenco school.

"Somehow the atmosphere was perfect: the peeling paint, leaking roofs, broken chairs and the hucups for ashtrays," said Ian Davies, 39, a flamenco guitarist from Swiss Cottage, London, who has "gone native". But a few months ago the owners of the building decided to sell after trendy bars and jazz clubs

opened near by. The 75-year-old lessee of the studios lived in Dickensian conditions so tempted by an offer of a free flat, he sold out.

True Spanish hysteria ensued. Nobody knew what to do. It was left to a foreigner, who has danced at Amor de Dios for 25 years, to go into action. "La Rubia" is a 6ft blonde who has danced all over the world.

She was born Elke Stolzenberg in Germany and once worked as a photographer with the *San Francisco Examiner*. Now she is the official flamenco photographer for the region.

She first approached the city hall in the search for new studios but, as she had been one of the organisers of last

year's disastrous "Cultural Capital of Europe", officials turned her down.

Then Elke met Ramón Caravaca, councillor for culture and education in the regional government.

Nobody knows quite how it happened, but just a few days before Christmas, when the doors of Amor de Dios had been locked, Joaquín Sanjuan, president of Madrid's 30 flamenco clubs, led a procession of dance teachers and students to the new studios provided by the Comunidad de Madrid.

María de Magdalena, a teacher at Amor de Dios, was awestruck. "We owe a lot to Elke." She winked.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mindanao bombers kill seven in cathedral

Manila: Bombers hurled three grenades into a Roman Catholic cathedral packed with Christmas worshippers, killing seven people and injuring about 130 others. Rodrigo Duterte, Mayor of Davao City, said three grenades exploded at the San Pedro cathedral.

Davao City is the largest city in Mindanao, the country's second largest island, and about 600 miles south of Manila. The Rev Bong Dublan said he saw an assailant throw two grenades from the back of the cathedral as he was saying the Offertory.

He said the cathedral would be closed indefinitely. Five people were killed in a similar attack at the cathedral in 1981. No group claimed responsibility for the explosions, but suspicion fell on Muslim extremists.

Although Davao is a largely Christian city, Mindanao is the traditional homeland of the country's 6 million-strong Muslim minority. Muslim groups have been blamed for many attacks on Catholics in the southern Philippines. Four missionaries — three Spaniards and an American — have kidnapped in separate incidents since October 1992. All of them were eventually released.

Landslide toll

Algeria: A landslide killed at least 15 people and injured 62 others, including 21 children, when it swept away homes in a poor hillside area of Oran on Christmas Day. Ten are still buried. (Reuters)

Suicide drive

New York: Dr Jack Kevoorkian, 65, the retired pathologist who favours euthanasia, wants to mount a campaign across Michigan to overturn a state ban on assisted suicides. The ban was enacted this year specifically to stop him. (AP)

Rebel justice

Colombo: Gopalaswamy Mahendrarajah, a former leader of Sri Lanka's Tamil rebels, and 120 of his followers are likely to be executed next month for betraying the organisation, according to the *Sunday Observer*. (Reuters)

Police shot

Cairo: Gunmen shot dead four policemen on their way to work at El Qusya, 190 miles south of Cairo. A civilian died in crossfire. More than 230 have been killed and 630 injured in fundamentalist violence in Egypt in the past 21 months. (Reuters)

Bulgaria shock

Sandanski, Bulgaria: Vladimir Zhirnovsky, the Russian neo-Fascist leader, on a private visit here upset Bulgaria with a proposal to replace its President with an obscure Bulgarian, Svetoslav Stoykov, who advocates "We owe a lot to the European economy." (Reuters)

TEST STEAL THEIR FURNITURE.

on everything, you could find yourself walking off with a few hot items.

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The flip-flop has

What will be the new fashion essentials of the New Year?

A classic for our time



Anne Klein creates schoolgirl chic



The clinging spaghetti slip by Ghost

ONCE upon a time a Chanel suit, a Hermès headscarf, or even an anonymous cashmere twinset reigned supreme as the ultimate classics. However, fashion can turn on a sixpence, and such obvious objects of desire are now regarded as less than credible.

This change in direction has seen the overt and ostentatious replaced by the laid back and self-effacing. All-enveloping monastic robes heralded a new mood of modesty. Colour drained from the wardrobe, with black emerging as the basis of every winter collection. Of course, the 1994 collections embrace even newer trends. Most importantly a re-evaluation of short hemlines, this time shown so sky high as to make a supermodel blush — although they don't appear to deserve the adulatory moniker any more, for now they are photographed bare faced, looking bemused, dressed in a ragamuffin mix of designer essentials. Realness is what's really new.



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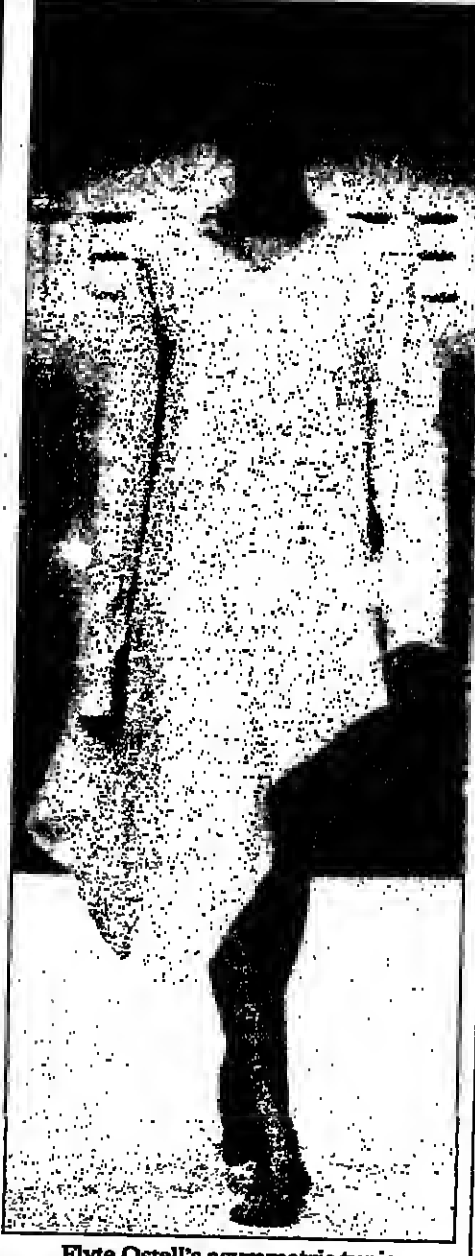
What then constitutes a classic in 1994? What are the stylish symbols which define our time? The Times asked leading names in the fashion world to nominate classics for the new age.



Sleek suit and shirt by Paul Smith



The skindress, to be worn under or over: designed and photographed by Karl Lagerfeld



Flyte Ostel's asymmetric tunic

Donna Karan, designer: "For 1993, the slip dress, it was the new foundation for dressing, to take you from day to evening. For 1994 a pair of sneakers."

Jean Paul Gaultier, designer: "The kippa (the skullcap worn by Jews) for 1993, symbolic, a message of tolerance; and for 1994 a string of pearls but worn between the ear and the nose, the ultimate way to wear a classic."

Alexandra Shulman, editor of British Vogue: "A classic has to maintain its presence for longer than a year, but my nomination would be the tunic top. Labels don't matter but fabric does, witness Flyte Ostel's satins and crushed silks. Ben de Lisi's velvets and crepe de Chine and Donna Karan's long asymmetric silk knits."

Paul Smith, designer: "After Deconstruction is Construction. Deconstruction was a reaction against 1980s power dressing. Designer status symbols are no longer on the agenda for the 1990s. The relaxed way of dressing of 1993 continues but the emphasis is now on construction. The New Year focuses on simplicity of style, as opposed to the fashion costumes of the 1980s."

"The new classics concentrate on the signatures of bespoke tailoring: handstitched buttons, handstitched edges and interesting lining. The perfect white shirt will continue to be a timeless classic, handstitched details for 1994 of course."

Nicola Jeal, editor of Elle magazine: "The whole concept of classics changed in 1993. Classic as an investment item went out of the wardrobe. Suddenly 'classic' as in smart was no longer cool."

"Classics had to look casual — enter the skinny velvet jacket, score one point for brand new, ten for secondhand. Ditto the other classic of 1993 the oaty, short reeler/pea coat. In 1994, clever stylists will search for 'classic inspiration' in 'alternative' areas — lingerie and school uniform departments to emulate the Anne Klein image."

"Slip dresses, pyjama-shape trousers, old-

school sportswear and items that are reminiscent of regulation school uniform. And feet? The old beach classic — flip-flops, of course."

Karl Lagerfeld, designer and photographer: "The classic of 1993/94 is the skindress" (a see-through stretch dress which is worn under, or over other items of clothing as designed by Karl Lagerfeld). Tanya Sarne, designer of Ghost: "For 1993, the Doc Marten boot or any chunky boot, the fashion look of young girls, worn with flowery dresses; variations on T-shirts and Levi's, which are always classics."

"For 1994 I think the classic will be a plain bias cut dress with spaghetti straps, either long or short; bias cutting is good because it clings to curves but it stretches so you don't have to diet. Also vests and skinny jumpers, unstructured, loose things that are wearable and easily washable and that you can wear and make your own, they don't wear you."

Jean Muir, designer: "With great humour (and a large packet of salt), my classic for 1993 would be the Versace film shown on Channel 4 this previous autumn. The classic for 1994 is the Glenys Barton sculpture of Miss Muir that appears in The National Portrait Gallery exhibition 'The Portrait Now'."

Lucinda Chambers, fashion director of British Vogue: "My definition of a classic is something that has proved itself over a period of time such as a well cut black jacket by Chanel, Versace or Jil Sander, de-



The flip-flop has made a real hit

pending on your taste. It suits anyone whatever their age."

Calvin Klein, designer: "The classics for 1993 were the black wool crepe suit and the new pea jacket. The ankle boot, definitely, 1994 is about a new sparseness and logic, with an emphasis on softness and fluid dressing. A beautiful, tailored man's suit with a narrow pant and a narrow blazer coat will be the 'new' classic."

Gianni Versace, designer: "Every designer dreams of creating something classic. I can't even tell how many times I tried to renew what was 'classic', to create something that could become the 'classic of tomorrow'. In the past ten years I've been working a lot on this subject, and I'm sure that the combat boot is a classic for these years like a Chanel shoe was in the past."

"A print silk shirt is a Versace must which can give a pair of jeans elegance and fantasy. The 'classic' for 1994 will be the Versace leggings because they perfectly fit a woman's silhouette. They are sexy and comfortable at the same time. Perfect for a modern woman."

Lucille Lewin, owner of the Whistles chain: "My classic for 1994 is the scrunch silk skirt which has been a best seller at Whistles since 1985, and will, I think, continue to be so. It is so versatile. Washable, non-iron, and can be worn day or night."

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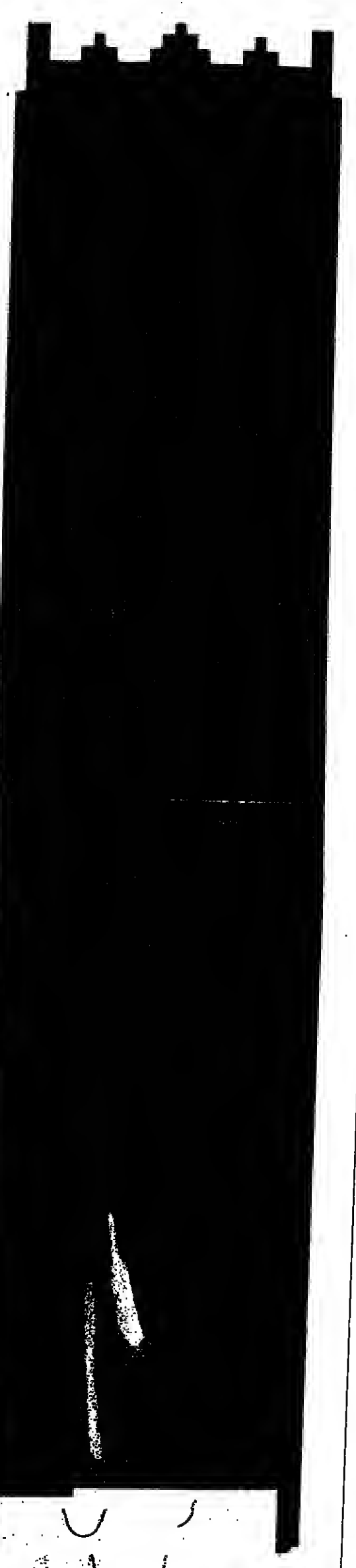
Lucille Lewin, owner of the Whistles chain: "My classic for 1994 is the scrunch silk skirt which has been a best seller at Whistles since 1985, and will, I think, continue to be so. It is so versatile. Washable, non-iron, and can be worn day or night."

All catwalk photographs: CHRIS MOORE
Paul Smith photograph: Martyn Thompson
Illustrations: Iain R. Webb

Runaway success: the sneaker

Runaway success: the sneaker

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ANNALISA BARBIERI



PRESSURE ON PYONGYANG

North Korea must be convinced that America means business

On Christmas Eve, the United Nations Secretary-General walked into North Korea, across the demilitarised zone that marks an armistice now 40 years old. The two Koreas are still technically at war — a war that could now, if it broke out again, involve nuclear confrontation. Dr Boutros Ghali's meeting with President Kim Il Sung was disturbingly, if predictably, unproductive.

The unstated hope behind Dr Boutros Ghali's trip was that UN mediation might help to avert a second conflagration on the Korean peninsula. That risk, in the light of North Korea's suspected violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and its continued defiance of international law requiring it to submit to international inspection of its nuclear facilities, must now be accounted serious. But President Kim effectively told Dr Boutros Ghali to mind his own business. And in Peking yesterday Li Peng, the Chinese prime minister, repeated China's opposition to the imposition of UN sanctions on North Korea.

These are needed now. Diplomacy must acquire teeth if Pyongyang is to be brought peacefully to heel. This last of the Cold War's frontiers is not only no closer to becoming a zone of peace. North Korea, an obsessively secretive communist dictatorship which has several times resorted to international terrorism, is the most immediately threatening of the new band of nuclear menaces. These are the rogue states, which so nearly included Iraq, which are determined to obtain nuclear weapons, and much more likely to use them than was the Soviet Union.

For nine months, America has been attempting, in so far unproductive bilateral diplomatic negotiations, to induce North Korea to open up its suspect nuclear sites to international inspection. Sceptics have long contended that North Korea is impervious to diplomatic carrots and is using the bilateral

talks simply to buy time. The latest American intelligence estimate, which President Clinton is now reported to have on his desk, appears to bear them out. It concludes that North Korea has in all probability already achieved its covert ambition. The finding has the support of every American intelligence agency except that of the State Department.

If true, this hands Mr Clinton the "full-blown crisis" he has been hoping against increasingly gloomy odds to avert. North Korea's neighbours, from Japan and Taiwan to South Korea itself, have been fervent in support of a diplomatic solution — understandably, given the risk that North Korea would attack south if cornered. But if persuasion fails, all these countries could rapidly acquire their own nuclear deterrent. Nuclear non-proliferation, which Mr Clinton has rightly made his strategic priority, would then be a dead letter.

The Americans cite some progress over the past ten days: but no country with nuclear weapons has yet relinquished them, and the risks of relying on diplomacy alone are rapidly becoming unacceptable. More muscle is required. It is in China's interest to co-operate: but if the UN is stymied by a Chinese veto America should lead an allied economic blockade.

North Korea must be deterred from all thought of a military riposte. Mr Clinton has been advised that 545,000 American troops would be required to defeat a North Korean invasion of South Korea. Serious deterrence is incompatible with current plans to reduce America's total military manpower to 570,000. Pyongyang must be convinced that should diplomacy and sanctions fail, America has both the will and the means to end its nuclear status by force. Bobby Inman's first task at defence is to restore clarity to the murky US defence profile left by Les Aspin.

WELCOME TO GATWICK

Visitors must have the right to individual screening.

Immigration control is necessary, and a fact of life. Illegal immigration to the West is on the increase, and it is the right of every state to regulate entry of foreign nationals. Inevitably, it will be easier for some to enter than for others, and this is determined by legal, political, economic and, to some extent, cultural considerations. Race on the other hand, is not expected to be a factor. The particular attention paid to a Jamaican charter flight, which landed at Gatwick airport last Tuesday, suggests that it may well be one.

Normal procedure for "controllable passengers" (Orwellian immigration service jargon for those without automatic right of entry into Britain) is simple. Once off the plane they present themselves individually to an immigration officer. Their documents are scrutinised and questions are asked of them. If the officer is satisfied that the passenger will return to his country of origin, leave to enter is granted. Home Office statistics show that 1 in 67 Jamaicans is refused entry, as opposed to 1 in 1677 Australians or 1 in 2014 Americans.

In the case of 190 Jamaican nationals among the 323 passengers on the flight, these procedures were not followed. Instead, they were detained for up to eight hours without interview or explanation. Many were later transported to detention centres. If, as has been suggested, there were grounds to suspect that many on board the flight were members of notorious "Yardie" gangs, and if there was the apprehension that others were not bona fide visitors, then the normal procedures would have served to weed out cases undeserving of entry. Those arousing suspicion could have been questioned separately, and at length.

There is no excuse for treating people as collectively, rather than individually, under suspicion. Routine practice exists for good purpose. It ensures — and this is important in a sensitive racial context — that there is no appearance of bias. This is an essential principle from which no derogation should be politically acceptable.

The action of the immigration officers was degrading. That it was Christmas only served to emphasise their heavy-handedness. Particularly uncouth was the refusal by airport authorities to share information with waiting relatives and friends — mainly British citizens — until several hours had passed. The Citizen's Charter makes no mention of airport authorities. It ought to.

The case should draw attention to the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993, which removed the right of appeal against a refusal to grant entry clearance. That was a retrograde step, both in principle and because the existence of a right of appeal acted as a check on immigration officers. A person can still seek judicial review, but that is far from satisfactory. An appeal would involve a re-hearing on the merits; judicial review would, effectively, only deal with cases involving procedural impropriety.

The episode has left an ugly aftertaste. It is still not clear who took the decision to "target" the flight, but the scope of the operation suggests that it must have been taken at a high level. The Home Office, which has been tight-lipped in this matter, must give a good account of its reasons. Why was the flight singled out for attention? What criteria were used? What were the suspicions? It is only when satisfactory answers are received, and made public, that the suggestions of racism can be put to rest.

TWO TURTLE DOVES



Like all animals, it is in man's nature to find a mate. But to live with the same creature of the opposite sex for a lifetime is a rarer trait in the rest of the natural world. Myth has it that doves are monogamous, but even they chafe at being too confined. Many marriages too suffer from one partner feeling constricted by the other. For some, billing and cooing will have turned into bickering and cursing in this season of what is supposed to be goodwill. "Let there be spaces in your togetherness," counselled Kahili Gibran in *The Prophet*. Those who ignore his advice, at Christmas and in the other peak season for relationship breakdown, the summer holidays, may now be worrying whether their marriage is retrievable. Relate can expect a flood of calls in the next few weeks.

Unhappy marriages are nothing new. Literature is full of them, and of cynical views of the institution of marriage itself. Hear Tertullian: "It is better to marry only because it is worse to burn. It is still better neither to marry nor to burn." Or Shelley: "A system could not well have been devised more studiously hostile to human happiness than marriage." Almost every country has similar proverbs. The Arabs say, "Love is the star men look up to as they walk along, and marriage is the hole they fall into," the Russians, "Marriage is the tomb of love."

Escape from an unhappy marriage, by contrast, is now much easier to achieve. Everyone knows the statistics: one in three marriages ends in divorce, and second

marriages (Samuel Johnson's "triumph of hope over experience") are even more likely to do so than others. And women, these days, seem to be the most discontented with the married state. Seventy-five per cent of divorces are instigated by wives, and over half of divorced men later regret the break-up of their marriage. Surveys suggest that the happiest and healthiest people are single women and married men. Now that so many women are earners, they no longer need feel trapped in unhappy marriages.

But divorce has consequences that resonate far beyond the two people involved. Neglect or ill-treatment of children is by no means confined to broken homes; in some instances, separation may be in the child's best interest. But as a rule, children are not only traumatised by their parents splitting up; they are more likely to divorce in their turn. Marital breakdown, like curly hair, seems to run in families. The cynicism of writers down the ages may be tongue-in-cheek, but the cynicism about happiness — even after of a child from a broken home about is corrosive and runs deep. Those couples with children who are tempted this Christmas to call it a day should consider that they may be bequeathing unhappiness to their families for many generations to come. And they should ponder the wisdom of Jung: "Seldom, or perhaps never, does a marriage develop into an individual relationship smoothly and without crises; there is no coming to consciousness without pain."

'Wishful thinking' on Yeltsin's Russia

From Mrs Mary Dejesky

Sir, In his article on Russia's economic reforms, "How the West encouraged Yeltsin in his mistakes" (December 16), Anatole Kaletsky sets out "defining moments in Russia's transition from communism", in each of which Yeltsin is said to have made a "flawed choice". In three cases the choices might well have been flawed, had Yeltsin made them — but he did not.

First, Yeltsin did not reject the 500-day programme for economic reform — hazy, jargon-ridden and probably unworkable though that programme was. The programme was scuppered by an alliance of Communist Party, KGB and army leaders (the same coalition which tried to overthrow Gorbachev in August 1991) who in autumn 1990 presented Gorbachev with an ultimatum: either you ditch the plan or we ditch you. Less than one week after recommending the programme to the Soviet parliament, he recommended its rejection. Russia then tried to implement the plan alone, but failed.

Second, Mr Kaletsky argues that Yeltsin destroyed the "governability" of Russia and the Soviet Union by trying to outlaw the Communist Party after the coup of August 1991. The Soviet Communist Party was actually disbanded not by Yeltsin but by Gorbachev (announced in a television broadcast on August 24), who recognised that some of its most powerful officials had been involved in the plot to oust him.

In fact, though, the party's authority — and its ability to function as a state administration — was already fatally impaired. The Soviet Union was already ungovernable.

Yeltsin's third "mistake", according to Mr Kaletsky, came in December 1991, when he "peremptorily decided to abolish the Soviet Union". It is absurd to argue that one person can "decide" to abolish a huge superpower. The Soviet Union was already unviable, economically and politically.

The Soviet government had been unable to get its budget through parliament and was technically bankrupt. The non-Russian republics gradually withdrew from the Soviet parliament, boosting their republic parliaments in preference.

On December 1, Ukraine — the second most populous Soviet republic — voted for independence by a large majority. On December 8, the leaders of Russia, Ukraine and Belorussia denounced the 1924 treaty which established the Soviet Union. Who but the successors of its founding states had the authority to dissolve the Soviet Union?

Whether Yeltsin's dissolution of the Russian parliament in October was a mistake or not is still a matter of opinion rather than history, but these points are a matter of historical record. Underlying Mr Kaletsky's thesis appears to be a wish that the past two years hadn't happened. Well, untidy reality may be tough for Western politicians and economists to handle, but it is what we must deal with.

Yours faithfully,
MARY DEJESKY,
37 Ulysses Road,
West Hampstead, NW6.
December 20.

Broad brim but British

From Mr T. F. R. Jones

Sir, On December 11, in your earlier editions, you printed a photograph of Prince Edward trying on a Stetson hat presented to him in Dallas. That hat and his famous manufacturing company derive in part from origins in south Devon.

The Stetson family, later to become Stetson in America, appear to have been provincial hatmakers who emigrated to America in the 18th century. Stetson's Farm near South Brent, on the southern edge of Dartmoor, is claimed by its present owners to be the original Stetson family home. However this may be, the American arm of the family still retain a link with the ancient church of Modbury, between Kingbridge and Plymouth.

So the Stetson is, after all, a product of British ingenuity, and it is particularly fitting that a son of our royal house should be seen wearing one. Perhaps it will now replace both the bowler and top hat on formal occasions.

Yours sincerely,
TOM JONES,
11 Frensham Gardens,
Glenholt, Plymouth, Devon.
December 12.

Cover charge

From Mr C. J. Reddall

Sir, I recently had a review of my company's banking facility. To save time I combined the meeting with the bank manager with lunch, for which I paid about £40.

I have since received from the bank a detailed breakdown of their charges. Included therein was an item for £110, representing 125 minutes of their time for the self-same meeting.

Is that not a perfect case of having one's cake and eating it?
Yours sincerely,
C. J. REDDALL,
Reprographic Centre,
8 Bond Street,
Brighton, Sussex.
December 20.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Promises and choices at the font

From the Reverend Dr Nicholas Thistlethwaite, Vicar of Trumpington

Sir, I suspect that a good many parish clergy judge it appropriate pastorally to be less rigid about the setting of baptism than Nicholas Coleridge implies ("The wisdom of the font", December 20). The Alternative Service Book states that children should "normally" be baptised during the course of public worship on Sunday; but it clearly envisages occasions when the baptism service will be used on its own as well — what Nicholas Coleridge terms, incorrectly, "private christenings".

My own practice is to describe both options to the parents, expressing a preference for the former (and explaining why) but being willing to accept a considered request for the latter. It is all too easy for the "professionals" to forget that the request for baptism may be a significant step in the parents' own pilgrimage of faith. This may not be the moment to plunge them into the bewildering, and (for some) largely unfamiliar world of the Parish Communion.

What is important, I believe, is that children should be baptised in their local church. The Christian community can then offer that "help and encouragement" of which the ASB baptism service speaks. The growing tendency to try to have the baptism away from the parish where the family resides, usually at the church where the parents were married or where one of them was brought up, is to be strongly resisted — as it is by most clergy, but a determined grandmother can be extremely persistent.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS THISTLETHWAITE,
The Vicarage,
Trumpington, Cambridge.
December 20.

From Mr Philip Youngman

Sir, Nicholas Coleridge seems to me to be really writing about substitute parents and substitute aunts and uncles rather than godparents.

Surely godparents who cannot with sincerity keep vows or do not wish to keep them should opt out or ask the parents to opt for the thanksgiving and naming service on page 213 of the commonly used Alternative Service Book of the Church of England. This avoids the embarrassment of having to make vows.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP YOUNGMAN,
The Old Vicarage,
Melplash, Bridport, Dorset.
December 21.

Maxwell pensioners

From Sir John Cuckney, Chairman of the Maxwell Pensioners Trust

Sir, Mr Kenneth Trench (letter, December 17) quite rightly draws attention to the plight of the Maxwell pensioners, whose principal concern remains uncertainty over the future of their pensions. However, his letter would have been more balanced if he had noted that, through the efforts and contributions of the Government and the Maxwell Pensioners Trust which it established and for which it meets the costs, all pensioners have been and are currently receiving their pensions in full.

They should on present estimates be able to continue to do so until mid-1996, based on the present level of funds remaining in the trust. This allows reasonable time for the conclusion of outstanding disputes over the ownership of assets through a global settlement, mediation or litigation.

Mr Trench also knows, as was made public in September, that an initiative is being led by Sir Peter Webster, a retired High Court judge, at our invitation to attempt to achieve a global settlement. It was always expected that in a very complicated situation this initiative would take time, but progress so far is encouraging.

Should the initiative not succeed there remains scope for mediation and other action before the time comes when the issues can be resolved only by the courts and I shall have to consider making a further general appeal for funds, in order to enable us to help to maintain full pensions for even longer.

If this becomes necessary I can only hope for a generous contribution from those who over the years continued to have profitable dealings with Robert Maxwell and particularly those who failed to heed the Department of Trade and Industry inspectors' warning in their 1971 report that he was, in their opinion, not a fit person to be relied on to exercise proper stewardship of a publicly quoted company. I regret to say that my initial appeal achieved a very poor response from all but one or two members of this group.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CUCKNEY,
Chairman,
The Maxwell Pensioners Trust,
PO Box 14,
London SW1Y 4TJ.
December 20.

Put to the test

From Mrs Jane Crease

Sir, Perhaps Mr Fergus Hinds (letter, December 14) is on to something with his suggestion of a trial period of cohabitation. Perhaps there should be marriage tests leading to a marriage licence analogous to the driving test and driving licence.

From experience, I would suggest that map-reading while one's partner drives and putting up a caravan swinging together, in the dark, are the ultimate tests of a marriage.
Yours faithfully,
JANE CREESE,
Old Carlton Farm, Warrhill, York.
December 14.

Measure for measure

From Dr D. S. Skene

Sir, Every now and then reports in your paper suggest very little sense of scale when reporting scientific measurements. On page 1 on December 18 you reported the British legal blood alcohol limit (for driving) as 80mg per 100ml and on page 13 the equivalent French limit as 1mg per litre. This would imply either that French drivers are incapable after a few teaspoons of wine or that the British are capable after a bottle.

I dare say you would find supporters for either contention.
Yours faithfully,
D. S. SKENE,
307 Queen's Road, Maidstone, Kent.
December 18.

From Mrs Ann Hawkes

Sir, Within the Church of England service of Holy Baptism parents and godparents agree to accept certain duties, and publicly state their belief and trust in God the Father, his Son Jesus Christ and his Holy Spirit. The priest states that:

... children ... are baptised on the understanding that they are brought up as Christians within the family of the Church. As they grow up, they need the help and encouragement of that family, so that they learn to be faithful in public worship and private prayer, to live by trust in God, and come to confirmation.

Parents and godparents, the children ... depend chiefly on you for the help and encouragement they need. Are you willing to give it to them by your prayers, by your example, and by your teaching?

It is difficult to see how anyone but a believing Christian can honestly answer "I am willing" to that last question.

The main part of Mr Coleridge's article is concerned with the provision of expensive gifts and outings for godchildren. He is confusing the role of a godparent (who needs much spiritual but no worldly wealth) with that of a rich family friend.

Yours faithfully,
ANN HAWKES,
2 Vincent Close, Fitcham,
Leatherhead, Surrey.
December 22.

From Lady Huxtable

Sir, Nicholas Coleridge lists some of the effects of the Church's virtual refusal to perform "private" baptisms. Here is another.

When our children were christened we had a service at 3pm, followed by tea for family, godparents and friends, finishing with the cake and a glass of Champagne. This formed a pleasant rite of passage as the child was introduced to its human family and to the family of God.

Nowadays, most family services are at 10am. In order to attend, godparents, aunts, uncles and grandparents may well have to stay in the area the night before. The parents then have to provide the guests with lunch. This is very much more expensive than tea. In small houses fewer people can be entertained to lunch than tea. There is thus greater scope for offending relatives not invited.

It is not only for godparents that the cost of baptism has risen.

Yours faithfully,
MARY HUXTABLE,
Long Bank House,
Leyburn, North Yorkshire.
December 21.

Every day is special

From Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, QC, MP for Perth and Kinross (Conservative)

Sir, As a Scot, who enjoys the privilege and pleasure of shopping on Sunday, as we always have, may I be so bold as to suggest that all those who enjoyed us to a load of sanctimonious claptrap about keeping Sunday special, and voted for it (letters, November 29; December 1, 8, 16, 19), should have all their voices — heat, light, transport and all the rest — withdrawn every Monday, and of course no newspapers for them, because the folk who provide all these benefits have to keep Sunday specially busy.

For me, each day of the week is special and each day of the week has its own character. The campaign was humbug at its worst.
I remain, Sir, sincerely,
NICHOLAS FAIRBAIRN,
House of Commons.

Beset by dinosaurs

From Mrs Helen McGarry

Sir, My house is filling up with plastic dinosaurs. They arrive hiding in tea packets, cereal packets, fast-food containers and more. The creatures stare at me everywhere I look. Please, marketing managers, can we finish this craze?

Yours faithfully,
HELEN MCGARRY,
21 Burford Rise, Luton, Bedfordshire.
December 20.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be heard on 071-782 5044.

Keeping cars off the Ridgeway

From Lord Bancroft

Sir, The western part of the Ridgeway, many thousands of years old, links ancient monuments on the chalk downland of Wiltshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire. It provides, within easy reach of large centres of population in southern England, a heaven-sent chance to breathe the fresh air of the Downs in peace and quiet.

Being a byway, it is a right of way for all traffic, including motor vehicles. The question is whether there should continue to have unlimited access or only a little place in such a special part of the countryside. Mr Robert Key's own Department of Transport evidently saw the latter as a sufficiently cogent basis for the compromise proposal which it put forward for debate at a public enquiry last year. This proposal — a ban on motor cycles and four-wheel vehicles on Sundays and Bank Holidays only — has lately been rejected (report, later editions, December 9).

The minister has missed a rare opportunity to demonstrate that his department will not encourage ever-increasing numbers of cars to smother the countryside: that there are certain special places where the motor vehicle should be seen as an intruder. People may well ask, if there is no check on the Ridgeway, where is there to which we can turn?

The inspector at the public enquiry looked for evidence of clashes, physical interference, gross misuse, etc., and found the records inadequate; he also found that the case for regulation rested "too much on opinion and not enough on fact". He concluded that the case had not been made.

But surely it would have been open to the minister to take a wider view and to recognise that there has to be a judgment of value at the heart of a question like this. It is not a matter of counting the wounded. The opinions of people about what is proper are crucial, and so are the opinions of major national organisations with interests in the countryside. The Council for the Protection of Rural England, the Youth Hostels Association, the Ramblers' Association, the National Trust, to name just four of the biggest, were all in favour of the department's original proposal.

Substantial numbers of those interviewed in the 1988-89 survey mentioned, unprompted, some aspect of motorised use among their dislikes. I do not doubt that in due course there will be another opportunity to get to grips with an unhappy situation, which can only get worse as the use of cars in the countryside increases. We must hope that it comes soon. We must hope, too, that the opportunity is not missed a second time.

Yours faithfully,
BANCROFT,
House of Lords.
December 22.

Riding safely

From the Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police

Sir, The popularity of horse-riding continues to grow and a great many riders inevitably use the public roads. Many motorists take great care when passing riders but it is also true that most motorists are not familiar with horses and ponies and therefore sometimes drive past both too quickly and too close, causing real danger.

Whilst in many areas the accident rate is falling, regrettably those involving horses and ponies on the road are increasing, and injury, at the least, to either or both horse and rider is inevitable.

Riders can do much to protect themselves. It is not surprising that motorists do not give them consideration to when they ride near-invisible dark-coloured horses and wear inconspicuous clothing. Against a dark winter background this can be a real problem.

National research has shown that there is a dramatic reduction in the speed of passing traffic when horses and ponies wear highly reflective bands on their fetlocks. All conspicuous clothing both for horse and rider reduces the risk of accidents and it is particularly important in winter that all riders on the roads — both during the day as well as at dusk — "be seen to be safe".

At the same time can I urge drivers of vehicles to pass equestrians "wide and slow".
Yours faithfully,
DAVID BURKE,
(Chairman, North West Yorkshire Branch, British Horse Society),
Newby Wiske Hall, Newby Wiske,
Northallerton, North Yorkshire.
December 21.

Price of progress

From Mr Peter M. Mander

Sir, The 5p piece is now of less value than the halfpenny was in 1939. Why do we keep the "copper" coinage in circulation? It is more of a nuisance than it is worth.

Yours sincerely,
P. M. MANDER,
7 Avenue Court, The Avenue,
Coulston, Surrey.
December 21.

Letters should carry a daytime

telephone number. They may be heard on 071-782 5044.

OBITUARIES

ALEXANDER MACKENDRICK

Alexander Mackendrick, British film director, died in Los Angeles on December 21 aged 81. He was born in 1912.

ALTHOUGH he directed only a handful of films and, at the time of his death, had been inactive for almost thirty years, almost everything Alexander Mackendrick brought to the screen had distinction. He was one of the most talented of the young film makers who emerged at Ealing Studios under Sir Michael Balcon during the 1940s and his work, which included outstanding comedies like *The Man in the White Suit* and *The Ladykillers*, displayed a bite and intelligence that was rare in the British cinema. His films were, in particular, always notable for their fine writing and acting. His version of Richard Hughes's novel *A High Wind in Jamaica*, for example, was remarkable for the wonderful acting performances he coaxed out of children.

After Ealing, Mackendrick went to the United States, where he showed that he was able to tackle matter drama as well as light comedy when he made a brilliant start with the acid study of corruption *Sweet Smell of Success*. But after that he directed only a few more films, made at irregular intervals, and it was disappointing that a career which had promised so much should have ended so early. Mackendrick was known as an exciting director who was able to match the fast dramatic structure of the stories he handled with great visual acuity.

Alexander Mackendrick was born of Scottish parents in Boston where they happened to be on a visit. He was brought up in Glasgow, where he studied at the School of Art, and during the 1930s he worked in advertising and made documentary films. In the Second World War he was in charge of an army film unit in Italy and in 1946 he joined Ealing Studios.

Employed initially in the art department, he later wrote scripts and made his debut as a director with *Whisky Galore* (1949), skilfully adapting Compton Mackenzie's com-



Joan Greenwood and Alec Guinness in Mackendrick's *The Man in the White Suit*, 1951

ic novel about the inhabitants of a Hebridean island who unexpectedly acquire a cargo of whisky after a wartime shipwreck and have to conceal the fact from the authorities. Replete with fine detail, yet breathtakingly fast moving, *Whisky Galore* triumphantly managed to make a story which trod the light fantastic seem, somehow, wholly plausible. The film also enjoyed success in the US as *Tight Little Island* (1949).

Mackendrick's next film, *The Man in the White Suit* (1951), was sharper in tone and unusual for Ealing in carrying a strong element of satire. It starred Alec Guinness as the inventor of an indestructible fabric which is

seen by both factory owners and textile workers as such a threat to their livelihood that they combine to suppress it. With a cast which included Joan Greenwood, Cecil Parker and Ernest Thesiger, in addition to Alec Guinness, it was a meticulously constructed farce whose pace and ingenuity never slackened. Yet, as so often with a Mackendrick film it actually addressed itself to industrial and social realities.

With *Mandy* (1952) Mackendrick made his first dramatic subject, a sympathetically handled study of a family adjusting to the handicap of their young daughter who has been born deaf. Carefully wrought and

almost documentary in tone, it is a film which has avoided looking dated even forty years on.

Mackendrick returned to comedy for his remaining Ealing films, *The Maggie* (1953) and *The Ladykillers* (1955), joining forces in the latter with the American writer William Rose (who had just had an enormous success with *Genevieve*). *The Maggie* showed the darker side of Mackendrick's comedy and after the film opened in the United States he wrote to *Time* magazine to rebut criticism that he had been unduly cruel in his depiction of the central character, a rich American torment-

ed by the crew of an old cargo boat in

the Clyde. *The Ladykillers* was another film that explored deeper tensions beneath an apparently cosy surface. In the story of a sweet old lady, marvelously played by Kate Johnson — who unwittingly harbours a criminal gang. Consistently inventive and perfectly paced, it has become a classic of its genre, the last, and arguably the best, of the Ealing comedies.

After it, Mackendrick crossed the Atlantic to make *Sweet Smell of Success* (1957), which drew fine performances from Burt Lancaster and Tony Curtis in a scathingly effective look at the world of press agents and gossip columnists. But he left his next project, an adaptation of Shaw's play, *The Devil's Disciple*, after a disagreement with the producers, and it was six years before he directed another feature.

This was *Sanny Going South* (1963), which charted an orphan boy's journey through Africa. As in *Mandy*, Mackendrick showed great skill in his direction of the child actor and he confirmed this facility with children in his next film, *A High Wind in Jamaica* (1965) from Richard Hughes's pirate adventure. In 1967 he returned to the United States for *Don't Make Waves*, a satire on the rich playboys of California. But it was poorly received and with other projects including *Mary, Queen of Scots* and a screen version of Eugene Ionesco's play *Rhinoceros* failing to materialise, it proved to be his last film.

Mackendrick's uncompromising perfectionism did not always endear him to the captains of the film industry, and that perhaps helps to explain his modest output; but he still ranks with the finest directors that the British cinema has produced.

From making films he turned to teaching, and from 1969 to 1978 he was dean of the film department at the California Institute of the Arts, which benefited from his outstanding direction. After his resignation from the department in 1978 he continued to be associated with the Institute.

He leaves his widow Hilary and their two sons, as well as a son from a previous marriage.

TOMMIE CONNOR

Tommie Connor, songwriter, died at Farnborough, Kent, on November 23 aged 89. He was born in Bloomsbury on November 16, 1904.



TOMMIE CONNOR was the complete professional songwriter, who could produce, in order, lyrics on any subject, serious or funny, at the drop of a hat. Like many songwriters of his generation, he had no musical notion and was completely self-taught. But this never slowed him down and, with massive hits like "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" crowning the charts in 1952, Connor reached the top of his career. He wrote around 3,000 songs in all. "Many of them displeased me," he said, "but I know the public enjoyed them".

He was born in humble circumstances and left school at the age of 14 after elementary education at Macklin Street RC School, Holborn. His first stage appearance, at the age of ten, was in a rehearsal for England's first ice skating show, *Razze Dazze*, in 1914. He began his working life as a call-boy at the Kingsway Theatre in 1918, moving to the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, in 1922 where he

called for such stars as Ivor Novello and Gladys Cooper. In 1926 he went to sea for two years on the *Empress of Canada*, before returning to London to a succession of jobs as a porter at Covent Garden, a shop steward and an advertising salesman. Towards the end of the 1920s, with a job in a theatre to support him, he embarked seriously upon a song-writing career. At first, he received a good number of rejections from publishers but this enabled him to build up a stock of songs — something which would stand him in good stead when his career began to blossom.

Connor's first published song was "My Home Town", recorded in 1932 by Little Mary Hagan. This was followed in 1934 by two hits, "Jump on the Wagon" and "When the Guardsman Started Crouching on Parade". In 1935 Arthur Tracey recorded "It's My Mother's Birthday Today", a bestselling record even in those days when the principal medium was sheet music and by the late 1930s Connor had two Christmas hits with "The Little Boy That Santa Claus Forgot" (1937) and "I'm Sending a Letter to Santa" (1939) — the latter being first performed by Gracie Fields to troops in France. In 1944 Connor wrote an English version of the German wartime song "Willi Marlene" (popular on both sides) which proved a phenomenal hit for Anne Shelton.

The war saw him producing troop shows up and down the country. It also provided him with the opportunity to display his home-grown bomb disposal skills. During the

war he was held in high regard by colleagues in the business for his professionalism, and worked hard for the Songwriters' Guild of Great Britain which was established in 1947. In 1984 he received an Ivor Novello award from the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors, for his lifetime contribution to the profession.

Connor was an excellent raconteur with a fund of stories, and one of the small band of men able to hold a fluent conversation in cockney rhyming slang. Indeed, in semi-retirement during the 1970s, he entertained himself by compiling a rhyming slang dictionary. His great relaxation was his garden which he tended meticulously and he ensured that there was always a winter rose blooming to Christmas day.

In 1931 he married Catherine McCarthy, who died in 1988. He is survived by their two daughters and three sons

NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

Norman Vincent Peale, American evangelist and author of *The Power of Positive Thinking*, died in Pawling, New York, on December 24 aged 95. He was born in Ohio on May 31, 1898.

THROUGH his book *The Power of Positive Thinking* (1953) Norman Vincent Peale was among this century's best-known American ministers, authors and public speakers. His gift for what Americans call "inspirational" writing and speaking led to the production of over 20 books, all with similar titles and themes, and to a career of indefatigable speaking, especially to groups of business men with whom he developed a close rapport. Although he had his critics among those who felt that his blend of theology and psychology was a trite one, and that the

Christian message had, in his hands, become too comfortable and too materialistic a creed, he nevertheless wielded immense influence right up to the time of his death.

The son of a physician turned Methodist minister in Ohio, Peale was educated at Ohio Wesleyan University where he graduated in 1920. For a period he worked on the *Detroit Journal* before enrolling in the Boston University School of Theology. After graduating from Boston he began his career in the Methodist ministry in Syracuse, New York.

But in 1933 he moved to the historic Marble Collegiate Church on New York's Broadway. This was surprising because its Dutch Reformed tradition was different from that of Peale's Methodism but he quickly placed his stamp upon it and sustained a ministry whose prosperity was

equalled only by its length until his retirement in 1984.

Along with his preaching, Peale organised psychiatric and other services at the Marble Church but they accounted only for part of his fame at that time, which was essentially that of a dynamic pastor. When his best-known book, *The Power of Positive Thinking*, was first published in 1953, it became an instantly recognisable catch-phrase. The magazine *Guidposts*, brought out to carry the same message largely by Peale and his wife Ruth, whom he had met and married in Syracuse in 1930, was hardly less successful. He quickly became a prominent broadcaster and in 1963 a film, *One Man's Way*, was based on his life.

A success of this sort did not lack its critics. The academic and literary worlds dismissed Peale's teaching as banal and trivial. Theologians protested that it reduced the Christian message to little more than sales talk for a psychological technique of self-help towards the achievement of mere worldly prosperity, an objection which seemed to be confirmed by Peale's admiration for business success and his unqualified support for the Republican Party.

In Peale's credo, it was felt by his detractors, prayer might be constantly recommended but only as a way of harnessing divine power to human ambition, with no hint that the answer to prayer could call into question that ambition. Likewise, the Bible might often be quoted but only those passages, torn out of context, which seem to offer reassurance and bolster self-esteem.

Some historians have pointed out that Peale's teaching has more in common with the "harmonious religion" of the nineteenth century than with American Evangelicalism. This harmonious religion, which emphasises the benevolence of the universe towards



human aspirations and disparages or denies the reality of evil has a long tradition of influence in prosperous parts of America and still finds expression in Christian Science and "New Age" teaching. Peale's achievement, such historians alleged, was to give it a more overtly Christian tinge and to adjust it to the needs and aspirations of those who seek material success in an industrial and commercial society.

These objections aside, what could not be denied was the extent of Peale's popularity. Few people in any walk of life can have had more awards and honours showered upon them by their admirers. From those given by the Horatio Alger and the Dale Carnegie societies through those of sales and advertising bodies to Rotary and especially, the Freemasons, the list is almost endless. The Presidential Medal of Freedom given by

Ronald Reagan in 1984 must have seemed almost anti-climactic. Perhaps what came as more of a surprise to the academically rigorous among Peale's critics was the number of honorary degrees he received from respected universities.

Peale's popularity reached its peak in the 1950s and some saw him as a representative figure for the complacency of the period of Eisenhower prosperity. That is perhaps to oversimplify. The American Evangelical revival was then gathering momentum and Neo-Orthodoxy was influential in the main-line churches, reacting sharply after the Second World War against the "God without wrath" who "brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgement through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross." This was also the period of Reinhold Niebuhr's influence in Washington, and no one

was a more devastating critic of "positive thinking" and of the ambiguities of power.

While Peale undoubtedly had many church-going followers and clerical imitators, what may be more interesting is the extent of the influence outside regular church circles. His combination of shrewd popular psychology and an optimistic recipe for success in terms people could readily understand, illustrated by innumerable anecdotes, made individuals feel better without much self-questioning. Even Peale's religious references were so generalised as not to be off-putting.

Certainly, evidence of his fame emerges in unexpected quarters. Mae West confessed herself to be a "positive thinker" and one of the best known strip-tease artists of the 1950s gave herself the professional name of Norma Vincent Peale, although few of her viewers could have been pew holders in the Marble Collegiate Church.

Yet, for all their objections to Peale's theology and politics, his critics could hardly fail to be impressed by the personal vitality, generosity and good humour which he, with his wife, displayed throughout their long lives. No one could deny that he himself exemplified the power of positive thinking, even though he did little to extend the frontiers of Christian understanding of human nature and destiny. There are signs that, in the revived market economies of the 1990s, his influence is far from spent. His books were still being reprinted in Thatcherite Britain and were influential among increasingly prosperous entrepreneurs from the Far East in America. Astonishingly, at the age of 92 he had produced yet another book *The Power of Positive Living* and visited London to promote it.

He is survived by his wife Ruth, a son and two daughters.

Pyotr Grushin

PYOTR GRUSHIN, a Russian scientist who designed the rocket that brought down the U-2 spy plane flown by the American pilot Francis Gary Powers in May 1960, has died, according to Russian newspaper reports.

The disappearance of a high-altitude American spy plane while it was on an intelligence-gathering mission over the Soviet Union occurred only a week before the opening of a summit meeting between the US, the USSR, Britain and France in 1960. It gravely embarrassed President Eisenhower, who denied that the aircraft had been violating Soviet airspace until Nikita Khrushchev called in the international media to reveal that both the plane and the pilot were in Soviet hands.

The Russian leader derided the American Administration's suggestion that the aircraft was a weather plane and produced photographs of Rus-

sian air-fields as evidence that its pilot, Francis Gary Powers was on a mission to spy on Soviet defences. Powers was charged with espionage by the Russians and, after a lengthy show trial, was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. However he served only 2 months before being exchanged for the Russian agent Rudolf Abel in Berlin.

Pyotr Grushin was a member of the Soviet Union's top secret scientific community involved in weapons research and designed planes and rockets for the defence industry for more than 50 years. He was responsible for the creation of 14 different types of anti-aircraft missile. During the second world war he helped develop bombers. One of his principal design successes was the rocket, identified as a V-750, which was used to shoot down Powers's plane.

But Grushin's name was virtually unknown in his homeland because of the secret nature of his work.

and with it the assertion of civil over military authority. It is an imposing record. Taken together, these initiatives set the pattern for American foreign policy for succeeding decades — and none was as inevitable at the time as it may later have seemed. In particular, that the United States did not, with the coming of peace, retreat once more into her traditional isolationism owes much to Truman's readiness to face facts as he saw them, acknowledge his mistakes and change course where necessary.

Yet he never established with his audiences the rapport of an Eisenhower, he never commanded the eloquence of a Stevenson or the magnificence of a Kennedy. What he did possess was an enormous earthy relish for the rough and tumble of the hustings; he revelled in attack on a folksy level. That is why he can have had few superiors in the art of whistle-stop campaigning. As the pugacious little man in battle with the giants of political and economic life, he somehow struck a chord of identification with so many of the American people. That is how he will probably be remembered — as the little man who rose to great places and did great deeds, but who yet remained an ordinary fellow with no aura of power, his fair share of faults and a few endearing idiosyncrasies.

DEATH OF MR. HARRY S. TRUMAN

Mr. Harry S. Truman was perhaps the most surprising President of the United States within memory. It was not just the unexpected circumstances under which he entered the White House in 1945, nor merely his fortuitous choice as Vice-President the year before. What did take his countrymen and the world by surprise was his remarkable capacity to grow in office, and in directions that were not to be foreseen in his background and experience.

He became a President of great decisions and routine failures. In the sphere of foreign policy in an era of more rapid and bewildering change for the United States than any similar period in her history, he met the challenge. There was the end of the Second World War with the historic decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan — whatever the rights and wrongs of this act, it was determined by Truman on at least understandable grounds and he never wavered in judgement under the impact of later controversy. There was the reversal of attitude to Russia in the light of Soviet diplomatic hostility and national aggrandizement in eastern Europe. There were military aid to

ON THIS DAY

December 27 1972

Harry S. Truman (1894-1972) became 33rd president of the USA (1945-53) overnight a critical time in world affairs. His re-election in 1948 is still a pollster's nightmare: some newspapers were on sale with headlines proclaiming victory for his opponent — Thomas Dewey.

Greece and Turkey, the Marshall Plan and the establishment of Nato — all marking the advance from isolationism, and for some of which Truman has not received his fair share of personal credit. The Point 4 programme inaugurated technical aid to under-developed countries. The Korean War, however unpopular it has since become in American mythology, deserves to be remembered as a prompt, courageous, and immensely significant response to communist aggression. Finally, there was one of the most difficult actions of all, the replacement of General MacArthur

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Latest wills

David Anthony Thomas Fane, 15th Earl of Westmorland, of Didmorton, Badminton, Avon, former Master of the Horse and Chairman of Sotheby's, left estate valued at £901,598 net.

Sir George Bowman 2nd Bart, of West Moor, Newcastle upon Tyne, left estate valued at £735,226 gross, net nil.

Mr Henry Montague Smart, of Eastbourne, East Sussex left net estate valued between £115,000 and £125,000.

He left his entire estate to the Labour Party.

Sir John Anthony Ffowles, of Nether Wallop, Hampshire, formerly of Lane End, Buckinghamshire, Vice-Chancellor of the Chancery Division 1974-76, left estate valued at £564,323 net.

Lady Dorothy Hopkinson, of St Clement's, Oxford, the writer and lay psychoanalyst, left estate valued at £35,344 net.

Mrs Edith Ethel Williamson, of Chesterton, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £668,908 net.

She left £28,000 and effects to personal legacies, £2,000 each to Leonard House for Elderly People, Cambridge, and to the Cambridge University Church, and the residue equally between Manchester University, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge, and the National Trust and Dr Barnardo's.

Other estates include (net before tax):

Mr Leslie Norman Draycott, of Henfield, West Sussex... £29,690

Mrs Minnie Gadsby, of Suresbrook, London E18... £716,731

Mr John Alexander Gray, of Lymington, Hampshire... £553,139

Mr Alfred Munday, of Eastbourne, East Sussex... £897,811

Mr William Thomas Oakway, of Belsize Park, London NW3 7JZ... £151

Mrs Susan Costello Isles Parrier, of Buckhurst Hill, Essex... £1,639,724

Gwendolen Kathleen Sellon, of Beahill on Sea, East Sussex... £641,217

NEWS

Children 'need tougher law'

■ Virginia Bottomley was challenged last night to take urgent action to combat a spate of cases in which parents have left young children on their own.

Child care agencies, police and MPs demanded new child protection laws after nine children, one only a year old, were found on their own over the Christmas period. The NSPCC led calls for the Health Secretary to ensure that nobody under the age of 16 looked after younger children. Page 1

Major backing for Yeo

John Major is standing behind Tim Yeo, the minister who has admitted to being the father of a secret love child. Reliable government sources say that the prime minister is said to regard Mr Yeo's admission as a "purely private matter". Page 1

Hostages freed

Four gunmen who seized a military helicopter in Russia and secured a \$10-million ransom released the last of their teenage hostages and continued toward Iran with two military pilots as captives. Page 1

Weather deaths

Two deaths and a 19-car pile-up were among a catalogue of accidents as freezing temperatures, snow and floods covered much of the country. Page 1

Visas predicted

Welfare officials predicted that the detention of a plane load of Jamaicans could presage the imposition of visas on people arriving from the Caribbean, like those required from the Indian sub-continent in the mid-Eighties. Page 1

IRA tension

Security forces in Northern Ireland returned to full alert as the IRA's three-day ceasefire neared expiry and its leaders showed no sign of moving closer to the UK-Irish declaration. Page 2

Power lines cut

Artillery shells cut Sarajevo's two power lines, knocking out the electricity supply, telephones and sporadic water supplies. Page 7

North Korea 'bomb'

The CIA and other US intelligence agencies say that North Korea already possesses one or two nuclear bombs. Their classified assessment was immediately denounced by US State Department officials as alarmist. Page 8

Thatcher 'hates' 24-hour security

Baroness Thatcher has given a rare insight into her frustration at the high personal security she is still forced to adopt more than two years after she ceased to be Prime Minister. In a unique television documentary to be screened by ITV next year the former Prime Minister admits that she hates the restrictions on her personal life 1984. Page 1

Cup of kindness

Scots are being urged to reduce their drinking on Hogmanay and to join a £200,000 three-day public party that Edinburgh aims to make an annual event for the whole of Britain. Page 3

Police in peril

Officers guarding Salman Rushdie, who share the author's danger from a suicide assassination, epitomise the perils of Scotland Yard's protection squad. Page 5

Tale of two menus

Lunch served to London's homeless included turkey stew and sausages. In contrasting surroundings, customers at a Hyde Park Corner hotel found salmon, champagne sorbet and barbequed lamb rack among their choices. Page 3

Princess missed

The absence of the Princess of Wales was blamed by onlookers for a low public turnout when the Royal family attended a carol service at Sandringham. Page 6

Tarnished Mao

Peking's celebrations of the 100th anniversary of Mao Tse-tung's birth were filled with code meaning that, while he had been a great man, the Chinese were better off without him. Page 9

Back to school

More retired people are returning to the classroom. The number of over-65s sitting GCSE examinations with one board has risen by a third in four years. Page 4



Flooding at Bewdley, Hereford and Worcester. Forecasters have given a warning that more rain is heading for the county (page 1)

Record bonuses: Dealers in the London and New York share markets stand to receive record bonuses on the back of booming share prices, with top performers netting over \$1 million. Page 32

Charity worry: The Salvation Army fears that a Charity Commissioners' investigation into a £6 million fraud on Army funds could damage its annual Door Knock appeal in February. Page 32

Granada backing: Shareholders in Granada, the television to motorway services company, have officially approved an extraordinary general meeting to £600 million takeover bid for London Weekend Television. Page 30

Football: Manchester United, unbeaten at home this season, avoided defeat against Blackburn Rovers when Paul Ince equalised with two minutes to go in the Premiership match at Old Trafford. Page 17

Cricket: The much-awaited Test match between Australia and South Africa in Melbourne was reduced by rain to just two hours on the first day, Australia finishing on 71 for two. Page 18

Football: Jamie Redknapp is a young man with the world at his feet. In the first of four articles on the daily lives of people in sport, Oliver Holt finds out what makes the Liverpool player tick. Page 24

Diet of danger: Dieting can be perilous. Dr Tom Sanders and Peter Bazalgette look at an industry that has grown fat by trading on fear and issue a warning: diets can ruin your health. Page 10

Objects of desire: Once a Chanel suit, a Hermès headscarf or even an anonymous cashmere twinset reigned as the ultimate classics. What are the stylish symbols which define our time? Page 11

Artist's nightmare: "There is something satisfying about the idea of Stephen King being haunted," Peter Millar on King's *Nightmares and Dreamscapes*. Page 21

Love-ape relationship: All this week, *Times* critics will be reliving the birth of the century's great cultural masterpieces. Today, Geoff Brown reflects on the night in 1933 when *King Kong* first mesmerised cinema audiences. Page 25

Comedy capers: Lynne Truss wonders why Christmas editions of sitcoms always send their characters on unfunny trips to hot locations but applauds *The Wrong Trousers* as a brilliant piece of film animation. Page 26

Mad about the boys: The big rock show of Christmas was Madness at Wembley Arena: a stream of old hits was exactly what their loyal supporters wanted. Page 27

THE TIMES TOMORROW

The advent of Jimi

■ "At late-night celebrity watering holes, Hendrix assailed musicians and journalists with a bravura display." David Sinclair relives the birth of a legend. Page 12

Monster in the nursery

■ "It is strange that so fierce and even terrible a creature has been welcomed into the nursery." Bernard Levin on the bear's place in society. Page 13

Thrill of the steeplechase

■ "Jump jockeys do it because, to a man, they are in love with their job, though you have to wonder why." Page 14



Dominic Cork, who took three wickets in seven balls as England A bowled out Western Province for 177 at Newlands in Cape Town. Page 18

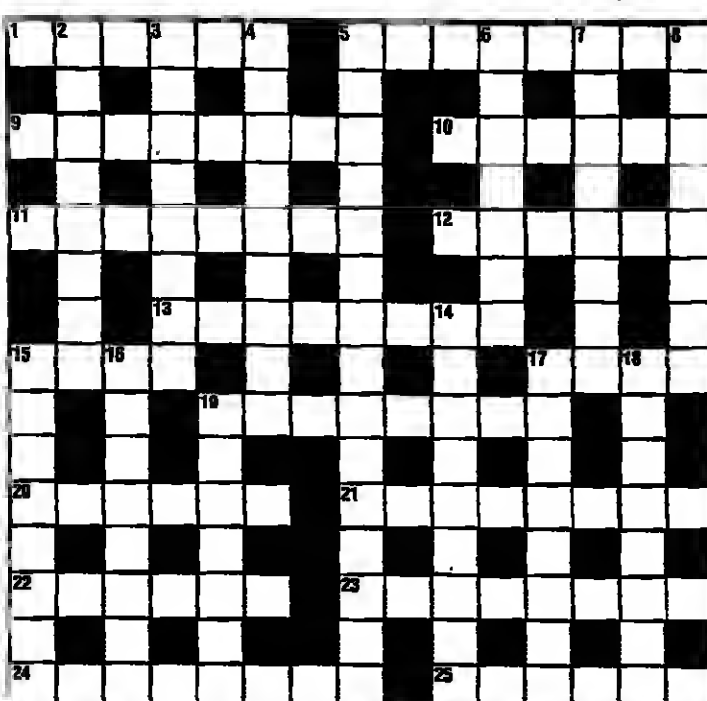


The Bishop of Durham, in his last Christmas sermon before retirement, spoke of the "need to watch out for pseudo-believers". Page 14



Tim Yeo, the countryside minister, who has admitted being the father of a love child, has received the backing of John Major. Page 1

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,423



- ACROSS**
- Knife from north in standard silver (6)
 - Unmoved by City of Rapture? (8)
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 - Popular bird to keep in confinement (6)
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 - Building establishment providing accommodation for travellers in the main (8)
 - Head off moral fall in the church (4)
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- DOWN**
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 - Lack of movement during start of play nothing new (8)
 - Being found around old city? (8)
 - Overload when river vessel takes large number on board (6)
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 - After a short time tries desperately to repay debt (8)
 - Ranking achieved by university drop-out in degree success (9)
 - Pair he led astray dreadfully in Eden (7,8)
 - Stout container, say, could provide reservoir above a road (7)
 - Altitude marking extent of plane's rise? (4,4)
 - Reproduced article accepted under cover (8)
 - Charge giving admission to island and take in grounds (9)
 - Dishonourable fellow one came unexpectedly across at University, say (8)
 - Shock American mounted force beginning to raid in the interior (8)
 - Sleepy fruit sounds a warning - it's not quite mature (8)
 - Like wood left on fiery base (8)
 - Vet in plain spectacles (7)

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For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

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TV LISTINGS

The comics Reeves and Mortimer host four hours of sketches and vintage clips (At Home with Vic and Bob, BBC2 7pm)..... Page 31

OPINION

Pyongyang pressure

For nine months, America has been attempting to induce North Korea to open up its suspect nuclear sites. Sceptics have long contended that Pyongyang is impervious to diplomatic carrots and is using the bilateral talks simply to buy time. The latest American intelligence estimate appears to bear them out. Page 13

Welcome to Gatwick

Immigration control is necessary, and a fact of life. Race, however, is not expected to be a factor. The particular attention paid to the Jamaican charter flight this Christmas suggests that it may well be one. Page 13

Two turtle doves

Myth has it that doves are monogamous, but even they chafe at being too confined. Many marriages too suffer from constriction. For some, billing and cooing will have turned into bickering and cursing. Page 13

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

What always surprises me about the Bishop of Durham is his fear of miracles. I find implausible the idea that events which cannot be explained by the causalities of human science cannot have occurred. Page 12

PETER RIDDELL

The House of Lords has never quite recovered from Bagehot's comment that "the cure for admiring the House of Lords is to go and look at it". The same can now be said of the House of Commons. Page 12

MATTHEW PARRIS

New Year's honours are part of the rhythm of our national life. I do not wish to abolish but to embellish the institution. I have a modest proposal. Why not a New Year's honours list for animals? Page 12

A priest and lay people examine the problems and opportunities of christenings. Page 13

It's entirely possible that the Clintons have done no wrong. But the evasive tactics by the White House have fueled suspicions that there is something in those files worth hiding. The New York Times

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THE TIMES

MONDAY DECEMBER 27 1993

Premiership leaders extend unbeaten run to 20 games with hard-won point against Blackburn

United draw on Ince's late inspiration



Ince, third from right, prepares to celebrate after scoring Manchester United's equaliser in the FA Carling Premiership match against Blackburn at Old Trafford yesterday. Photograph: Ross Kinnaird

Manchester United.....1
Blackburn Rovers.....1

By PETER BALL

MANCHESTER United did not look invincible yesterday. It took a scrambled goal in the dying minutes by Paul Ince to extend their unbeaten record to 20 games and take them 13 points clear at the top of the FA Carling Premiership.

Ince's goal, scored from Sharpe's corner, left Blackburn protesting fiercely that the ball had been run out of play by Giggs and not a defender, but by then there were desperate measures all round. A sign of United's desperation was the presence

of Peter Schmeichel, their goalkeeper, adding his weight to the crowded penalty area as United battled with the Blackburn defence.

"I think we deserved a point, because we were the only team trying to win the game," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said. "Once they got their goal they were quite happy to sit in there, knock the ball in to the corners and try to waste the game."

That did Blackburn less than justice. They showed scant regard for the Premiership leaders in an impressive performance. "I don't think we got the reward we deserved," Kenny Dalglish, the Blackburn manager, said, "but it's a reflection of how well the

players have done in such a short space. We have played the team which is regarded by almost everybody as the best in England and more than held our own."

As a side which cost more than their illustrious hosts, Blackburn clearly felt they had no cause for inferiority, taking on United in every area of the field with rare resolve, the combative Batty and Sherwood winning the fierce contest in midfield, and Shearer and Gallacher ensuring that Bruce and Pallister could not relax for a moment.

Shearer for once did not score, but for effort rivalled Batty, and as United's pressure mounted he summed up Blackburn's determination,

acting like a beacon to attract the crosses as they flew in. It was a measure of their success that they took "until the 80th minute" before "Keane" forced Flowers to make a first serious save.

But if Blackburn took the honours, United remain on course despite a sloppy performance. Blackburn looked sharper from the start and their goal was no surprise. With Batty heavily involved, they were quicker in to the tackle, rocking United back on their heels, and keeping the home side under unexpected pressure.

From a free kick for the second foul in quick succession on Shearer, Ripley pounced to shoot over the bar, and as United looked completely off sorts, the blue shirts pressed forward purposefully. Not even the loss of Newell after only 12 minutes disrupted Blackburn's rhythm and they took the lead four minutes later with a goal that illustrated their determination.

Batty withstood two fierce challenges and slipped the ball forwards to Gallacher. The Scot, who had moved inside in the reshuffle after Newell's injury, nutmegged first Pallister and then Bruce and stabbed the ball past Schmeichel for his fourth goal of the season.

For a time United looked completely taken aback and as mistakes proliferated on the

frosty pitch, the Blackburn supporters could not contain their pleasure. "Are you Burnley in disguise?" they demanded as United failed to mount a realistic threat for half an hour.

But slowly United began to move with some fluency and after the interval they stepped up a gear, even though Ince was feeling the effects of a knee injury. "He was coming off at half-time, but he said 'Give me four or five minutes' and that stretched somehow to 45," Ferguson said.

That spirit surged through the team. At times it threatened to boil over as the exchanges grew fierce. Schmeichel once running 70 yards to add his opinion as

Batty's challenge on Sharpe led to a mass disagreement, but when Schmeichel moved forward to pursue the ball from Sharpe's corner the breakthrough came. "We do go the distance and we persevered to the last minute," Ferguson said. "If any team is going to get anything here, they will have to play for 90 minutes." Blackburn got the message.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-2-4): P Schmeichel — P Foster (sub: G McGhee, 70min), S Bruce, G Pallister, G Ince — R Keane, P Ince — R Giggs, E Cantello, M Hughes (sub: G Ferguson, 65), I Sharp. BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-2-4): T Flowers — H Bagg, D May, C Hendry, G Le Saux — S Ripley, T Sherwood, O Barry, K Gallacher. Referee: D Gallagher.

Results, page 18
Liverpool united, page 22

Wimbledon go down with barely a whimper

Wimbledon.....1
Coventry City.....2

By KEITH FOLEY

WHILE not suggesting for one moment that Wimbledon deserve any sympathy for their part in the affair, the evidence yesterday was that John Fashanu and his club have also failed to escape unscathed from the Gary Mabbutt incident.

The biggest scars, of course, are borne by the Tottenham Hotspur captain, who is continuing his recovery from the horrific facial wounds he suffered when coming into contact with Fashanu's elbow a month ago. But while Mabbutt was with his family in Bristol yesterday, the legacy of that collision was still apparent at Selhurst Park.

Cleared by a Football Association commission of enquiry on Christmas Eve of intent to cause Mabbutt injury and, therefore, any disciplinary action, Fashanu knows that the prospect of further proceedings by Mabbutt in the civil courts is real. Osvaldo Ardiles, the Tottenham manager, has promised to support Mabbutt if he decides to take the matter further.

All eyes yesterday, then, were on Fashanu, and the Wimbledon striker appeared to know it. He might as well have been wearing kid gloves along with his cherry-red boots. Fashanu put not an arm nor a word out of place, not once forcing Martin Bodenham, the referee, to penalise him. His one significant contribution was to play a part in Wimbledon's first-half equaliser, scored by Dean Holdsworth.

Both Fashanu and Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, declined to make themselves available for interview afterwards and Holdsworth's assertion that his strike partner had been unaffected by the controversy was not reflected on the field.

With Fashanu becalmed and several of his colleagues apparently brooding — Vinnie Jones was also a peripheral figure as his team was out-fouled 12-7 — Wimbledon lacked their famed commitment, and without that they are ordinary indeed. Even their supporters among the lowest Premiership crowd of the season were heard to urge them to "get stuck in".

If ever there was a time to play them, this was it, and Coventry capitalised to the full with only their third victory in 15 matches, and their

first away from Highfield Road since the opening day of the season. Mick Quinn, whose hat-trick that day scuppered Arsenal, was not required this time, dropped by Phil Neal after an Achilles tendon injury had restricted his recent effectiveness. "People might wonder what's happening when I drop my leading scorer, but it had the desired effect," Neal said.

With the inconsistent Wegerle a lively and inventive partner for John Williams, Coventry made the brighter start, Darby and Morgan going close from distance, and they deserved the lead Ndlovu gave them after 27 minutes. Darby springing the offside trap and Williams unselfishly sweeping the ball into the Zimbabwean's path.

Ogrizovic, whose only previous moment of concern had come when

Morgan headed Ardley's free kick towards his own top corner, was then beaten seven minutes before half-time, Earle bursting through on to Fashanu's flick, evading Morgan and enabling Holdsworth to score for the fifth consecutive match after the Coventry goalkeeper had parried his initial effort.

Wegerle, who hit the crossbar, Ndlovu, who shot a whisker wide, and Williams, who failed to connect in front of an open goal, might have won it for Coventry in the second half before Williams atoned, punishing an awful error by Scales with the decisive goal 18 minutes from time.

WIMBLEDON (4-2-2): H Sagers — W Barton, J Scales, S Fitzgerald, B McAllister — P Foster (sub: G McGhee, 65min), A Carter, J V Jones, R Eadie, R Ardley — J Fashanu, G Holdsworth. COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — S Barrow, P Ardley, P Scales, S Morgan — P Neal, G Wegerle, M Bodenham, J Darby, S Flynn — J Williams, R Wegerle. Referee: M Bodenham.

Holiday sports gets case of frost bite

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

FREEZING weather in the northern half of England and in Scotland has reduced the holiday football, racing and rugby programmes.

Yesterday's third division match between Rochdale and Scarborough was postponed, and in the same division the Shrewsbury v Lincoln game tomorrow has already been called off.

In Scotland four of the 19 matches scheduled today are certain to go ahead, thanks to under-soil heating at Tannadice (Dundee United v Aberdeen), Easter Road (Hibernian v Partick), Ibrox (Rangers v Hearts) and Hampden Park (Queen's Park v Alloa). But a frostbound pitch has put paid to the match between the joint premier division leaders, Motherwell, and Celtic at Fir Park. The rest

of the Scottish programme faces pitch inspections this morning.

In rugby league the match yesterday between Widnes and Warrington fell victim to the weather, as did six of the seven second division games. Two of yesterday's three rugby union matches were cancelled and several today are in doubt.

Snow has forced the cancellation of racing at Sedgefield today, and others of the remaining nine meetings may be called off after inspections this morning.

A small consolation: unfavourable weather is not confined to the British Isles, as rain restricted play to two hours on the opening day of the first Test match between Australia and South Africa in Melbourne.

Dewsbury decline to play derby

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

RELATIONS have been anything but cordial at Mount Pleasant, home to both Batley and Dewsbury rugby league clubs. The local rivalry, in Yorkshire's heavy woolen country, may not have the fierce intensity of that between Wigan and St Helens, but matters reached a new low yesterday.

Even though the clubs have shared the same ground for three years — Dewsbury hope to move to a new stadium next year — their derby matches still inflame local passions and a crowd of 2,000 was expected at yesterday's second division meeting. True, the weather was hardly encouraging, but in spite of snow and ice and a delay in the lunchtime kick-off of 90 minutes, Batley were ready to play, as was the referee.

Dewsbury were not. After carrying out an inspection,

club officials said they were unhappy about the state of the pitch and refused to appear. The Dewsbury chairman, Rodney Hardcastle, maintained that the pitch was rutted, frozen and too dangerous for players to be risked on.

There was little sympathy for his view from his opposite number at Batley, Stephen Ball. "I am deeply sorry for the spectators, but there was nothing Batley could do about it," he said.

With the battering it takes from two clubs, the groundsmen's lot at Mount Pleasant is not the happiest one, particularly in bad weather, and as the pitch slopes away down a hillside towards the town of Batley.

Nor is this the first time that the pitch has caused problems. Last January, Hunslet refused to play Batley there and were fined £1,000.

Under the rules of the Rugby Football League, the referee's ruling is final. Yesterday, the referee, David Atkin, of Hull, ruled that the Mount Pleasant pitch was "perfectly playable".

Having rejected his instructions to play the game, Dewsbury must face a disciplinary hearing before the League. "We know full well what we have done. We shall have to let the Rugby League decide the outcome," Hardcastle said.

Ball was unimpressed. "It is obvious that the small fine imposed then has not deterred other clubs from considering themselves above the rules of the Rugby League," he said. The teams will try to play the match today — weather permitting.

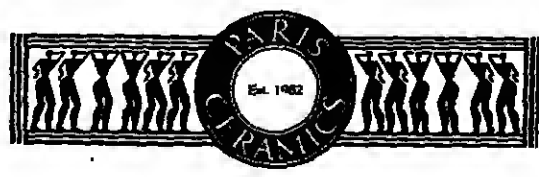
Wigan's championship match did go ahead — in the end — and they beat St Helens 40-8 to go top of the first

division. The match nearly did not take place because, over the holiday period, the timer on the Central Park under-soil heating system was wrongly set. Instead of switching itself on on Christmas day evening, it only burst into life yesterday morning.

With virtually half the pitch under frost and ice, St Helens asked for a postponement. However, they complied with the ruling by the referee, John Holdsworth, that it should go ahead. The outcome was defeated by seven tries to one.

Va'auga Tuigamala may make his Wigan debut in the reserve side early in the new year. The All Blacks have been perilled in for an Alliance Challenge Cup first-round tie against Swinton at Central Park on January 7.

Results and tables, page 18
Magnificent Wigan, page 23



JANUARY SALE

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4th January

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Desert Orchid, enjoying retirement but eager for his daily exercise, looks out expectantly from his box deep in the Leicestershire countryside

Rekindling memories of glory days

Each morning, he takes flight across the paddock like a bird from a cage. He pulls up where the rain has collected, and down he goes, rolling furiously, until he finally rises with his grey coat bathed in mud. This is Desert Orchid at home, and he is loving every minute.

Until recently, however, the strains of Christmas would find him hungry and hard as he prepared for his annual assault on the King George VI Chase. Now 14, it will be a more relaxed Desert Orchid who leads the parade for today's renewal at Kempton, where The Fellow bids to join him as the only horse to triumph three years in succession.

Desert Orchid, the reincarnated White Pegasus in the minds of so many, has somehow transcended the barriers between man and horse. To his thousands of devoted followers he has long since been one of us, yet one can only guess what will go through the mind of this extraordinary animal when he steps out on to the Kempton turf.

Kempton's obstacles represent the best and worst moments in Desert Orchid's glittering career. The scene of his four King George vic-

tories, the last of which came in 1990, was also the venue for his racecourse debut, when the headstrong child fell heavily and lay prostrate for a full 12 minutes before struggling to his feet. And it was at Kempton, 70 races later, that he somersaulted on his farewell appearance two years ago.

To see him in retirement is to rekindle all that and much more. His white coat may have lost some of its sheen, and the belly may be more rounded than of old. But, as he walks to the comfort of his box, there is no disguising the swagger, the sheer athleticism beneath the welter of rugs that serve to warm him on a foul December's day.

As a distant sound catches his attention, he is rooted to the ground with his head raised, his ears pricked, his neck arched slightly to one side. It is the very posture he assumed on the 24 occasions he visited the winner's enclosure, and one which, in addition to his rare colour, marked him down as a horse blessed with the all-too-human streak of arrogance. Indeed, the human analogy is evident in the minds of those closest to him.

"I think he acquired his distinctive deportment as he got older," Midge

Julian Muscat finds Desert Orchid blooming in his carefree lifestyle out of the spotlight

Burridge, wife of Jimmy, who bred Desert Orchid, said.

"He was a very ugly yearling who could be quite bumpy, but he was always very pleased with himself. He would always look around to make sure everybody was watching before he went into the winner's enclosure, which

is exactly what Arkle used to do."

His most loyal fans insist that he was in Arkle's league, a quite preposterous claim when their respective race records are examined. The hyperbole has been such that the Burridge family could have been readily excused for



Adoring racegoers catch a glimpse of their favourite before his farewell race at Kempton two years ago

promoting the argument, yet Midge is refreshingly candid when the matter is raised. "I don't believe a horse is a great horse unless he has won at Cheltenham," she said. "Desert Orchid did win the Gold Cup in 1989, but it is not too unfair to suggest he wasn't much better than all the others who have won the race only once, if you judge him on his Cheltenham record alone."

Yet "Dessie-mania," as it came to be known, evolved round more than just the horse's raw ability. He was accredited with two further qualities invoking the human instinct: bravery and intelligence. On this matter Midge Burridge is adamant.

Certainly, there was something tangible in the way he refused to accept defeat when it threatened to swamp him. This was best illustrated by his Cheltenham Gold Cup defeat of Yahoo, when, having been headed approaching the second-last fence, the grey came again on that arduous uphill run-in. However, Tom Morgan, Yahoo's jockey, insisted that courage played only a minor part because Simon Sherwood, the grey's rider, had ridden the perfect race.

"Sherwood knew my horse

was inclined to stop when he hit the front," Morgan argued the following day. "He was to the lead when he looked over his shoulder and saw me cantering behind him. So he slowed down and I had no choice but to take it up. And, sure enough, my horse stopped."

If Morgan's mildly plausible account makes light of the grey's fighting spirit, it will never wash with those willingly hypnotised by the Desert Orchid Experience. Witness the unbridled joy and the regal aplomb that surrounded him as he leads out the runners for the King George today, a year on from a life-threatening bout of colic. All who saw him racing preserve their own memory. And he continues to enchant the public in his regular appearances at charity events and homes for the aged. Yet, to see him at home, in the Leicestershire hamlet of Ab Kettleby, is to see Desert Orchid at his very best. Regular gallops with the string of Kevin Morgan, the Melton Mowbray trainer, have shown that the mind is still willing, and so is the flesh. But the Burridge family are determined he should have the quiet retirement he so richly deserves.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Players in revolt against manager

A GROUP of Russian football internationals, including Andrei Kanchelskis, of Manchester United, is demanding the dismissal of the national manager, Pavel Saduyrin, before next year's World Cup finals in the United States.

The revolt began earlier this month after a 1-0 defeat in a World Cup qualifying match in Greece. Igor Shalimov, the Russia captain, who is the spokesman for the players, claimed that the manager's training methods are from "the stone age".

Six other players attended a news conference in Moscow yesterday and the captain said: "We do not refuse to play for the Russian national squad. We refuse to play in the team headed by Pavel Saduyrin." Russia have been drawn with Brazil, Cameroon and Sweden in group B for the first stage of the 1994 World Cup finals.

Carlos Muñoz, the Ecuador international forward, was killed in a car accident near Guayaquil, Colombia, on Saturday. The 29-year-old striker with the Colombian side, Barcelona, lost control of his vehicle when speeding, according to witnesses quoted by police.

Cash comeback delayed

TENNIS: Heavy rain in Melbourne yesterday prevented Pat Cash, the former Wimbledon champion, from playing his first singles match in 12 months. Cash was due to play John Fitzgerald, his fellow Australian, in his opening match of the Colonial Classic grass court event at Kooyong, but the rain washed out play. Cash, Wimbledon champion in 1987, who has not played a singles match since injuring his left knee late last year, underwent surgery on the injury in June.

"It's been a long hard struggle, but I'm back ready again," he said. Cash said he planned to play in the South Australian Open in Adelaide and the New South Wales Open in Sydney in early January before asking for a wild card into the Australian Open later in the month. In Group B of the Colonial Classic, he is drawn to play Russia's Alexander Volkov, Karel Novacek, of the Czech Republic, and Fitzgerald, his former David Cup teammate, with the winner meeting the top player from Group A.

Under sail for Hobart

YACHTING: Brindabella, crewed by 20 of the leading yachtsmen in Australia, led the way out of Sydney Harbour to style yesterday, steering a course to try to break the 18-year-old record time of 2 days 14 hr 36 min 56 sec in the Sydney to Hobart race. In glorious summer sunshine, surrounded by hundreds of spectator vessels on the water and thousands more lining the shores of Sydney, 104 yachts in the elite fleet swept out into the ocean for the 630-nautical mile journey in one of the roughest and toughest yacht events in the world. Only the biggest and fastest racers can expect to arrive in Hobart in a little over three days.

Peking ponders bid

OLYMPIC GAMES: Peking is considering a bid to stage the 2004 Olympic Games, according to the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The Chinese capital, which finished second to Sydney in the voting for the venue in 2000, leads a list of 11 countries interested in staging the Games. Other candidates, according to the IOC, include Istanbul, Cairo, Seville, Buenos Aires and Stockholm. South Africa is reported to be considering Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban as joint sites. No official bids have been received. The IOC deadline is March 1996, with the choice to be made in 1997.

Stainrod challenge

FOOTBALL: Simon Stainrod yesterday said he relished the challenge of reviving the fortunes of the Scottish first division club, Ayr United. The 34-year-old Englishman, who took over as the club's player-manager over Christmas, said: "I want to give the place a big lift. There is definitely potential here. I haven't got a contract and don't want one. I will be judged on results." Stainrod replaced the former Scotland international, George Burley, at Somerset Park, a month after resigning as Dundee's director of football operations, a post specially created for him. Ayr are fifth from bottom with 21 points from 23 matches.

Phoenix rise again

BASKETBALL: Charles Barkley scored 38 points and made 18 rebounds and Kevin Johnson scored 36 points for the Phoenix Suns, who defeated the Houston Rockets 111-91, on Saturday in a National Basketball Association (NBA) match. The win was the Suns' eleventh win in their past 13 games. Hakeem Olajuwon scored 27 points for the Rockets. Toni Kukoc, of the Chicago Bulls, scored with two seconds remaining to gain the Bulls their ninth consecutive win, 95-93 over Orlando Magic. The Bulls have won 13 of their past 14 games after losing four of their first seven.

Chinese athletes fail drug tests

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

TWENTY four Chinese athletes, including Xing Fen, the champion woman weightlifter, tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs during this year's King's former world record holder and gold medal-winner at the Asian Games in 1990, failed a drug test during China's national games in October.

Zhou Tianhua, the world-ranked shotputter, who was fifth in this year's world championships to Stuttgart, also failed a random drug test administered by the Chinese Olympic Anti-doping Committee (COAC), according to China's Xinhua news agency.

Most of the other athletes were caught in tests at the national games.

However, the list did not include China's record-breaking women distance runners such as Wang Junxia and Qu Yunxia. A team from the International Amateur Athletic Federation flew to north-eastern Liaoning province last week to carry out random tests on the women who are trained by Ma Junren.

All the team members, known as the "Ma Family Army", took the test and proved negative.

The dominance of Ma's runners this year has led to accusations of drug abuse, but the coach attributes their success instead to his revolutionary training methods. A

COAC spokesman said China had implemented a strict anti-doping programme, under which 1,608 Chinese athletes in 28 sports had been tested in international and domestic competitions in 1993.

The Association of Tennis Professionals has denied allegations by Boris Becker in a German newspaper that some players on the ATP Tour are using drugs.

Mark Miles, the chief executive of the ATP Tour, said in a statement: "The ATP Tour has made a commitment to maintaining an anti-doping programme. Second-to-none among amateur and professional sports bodies around the world."

To this day, no player has been confirmed positive for the use of any substance which would have resulted in a suspension. The ATP said it carried out 431 tests on 231 players at nine events during this year.

Becker alleged that although players may not have been using anabolic steroids, he was convinced there was use of drugs such as cocaine or marijuana.

Becker, who said he did not take drugs, said: "The question is whether the ATP would allow a positive drug test to come through because the whole scene would fall into disrepute and the sponsors would really run away."

When winning is not enough to pay the bills

Alix Ramsay looks back on a successful year for British sportswomen but sees a need for greater self-promotion

This has been a good year for women's sport in Britain. Sally Gunnell became the fastest woman in the world over 400 metres hurdles to win the world championship. Nicola Fairbrother won gold at the judo World Cup, the England women's cricket team won the World Cup, the rugby team won the Canada Cup — it is an impressive list.

Yet, for the most part, women's sport remains a poor relation to the men's game. Nobody would argue that Steffi Graf, although she may not hit the ball as hard as Pete Sampras, is not an outstanding tennis player, but the achievements of many sportswomen, especially those playing traditionally male games, are regarded as minority interest.

For those who work long, and often unpaid, hours to run and promote women's sport, it is proof of sexism and bias. Sports editors, predominantly male, will not give equal space to women's sport, television producers do not flock to cover women's sport, and therefore, so the argument runs, there are few role models and little positive reporting.

Unfortunately, revolutions rarely happen overnight, and often women's sport is its own worst enemy. With sparse funding and less sponsorship, they have to rely on volunteers to run the governing bodies who often have little understanding of how the worlds of media, marketing, and promotion work.

In the time Helen Rollason has been a presenter for BBC television sport, she has seen a healthy improvement in the attitudes to women's sport.

Yet she, too, feels women's sport has to take some of the responsibility for the sporadic coverage. The netball international series against Trinidad and Tobago — the first series Eng-

land have won at home in 20 years — went down well on the small screen, but since then there has been nothing.

"Where are they in following it up?" Rollason asked. "The next international isn't until November. I know money is a big factor, but surely they have got to cash in and have another tournament in the spring. The audience is ready for it, and the BBC is ready for it."

The problem is money. Television attracts sponsors. Big events attract television. But to stage a big event, you need money, which means you need a sponsor — a classic Catch 22.

When Karen Earl, who runs her own sponsorship and marketing consultancy in London, is looking for a team or an event for a client to back, she knows she has to give the sponsor value for money, and women's sport seldom provides that.

"When you look at what men's sport can deliver for the sponsor, there is no comparison," Earl said. "Men can get recognition for their skill, but for women, glamour helps. Whether you like it or not, good-looking women are marketable. It's the old adage of life: women have to promote themselves more than men do."

But self-promotion does not come easily to some sports. When Alice Cooper tried to get coverage for the women's rugby World Cup in 1990, she found the outsiders' perception of the sport was less than helpful. "The hard core believed that since these girls were rough and ready, so they must all be lesbians," she said. "But the real image of the sport is of intelligent women playing an intelligent sport."

Through sheer hard work, Cooper did get widespread coverage of the

event, but was not helped by some of the players. As she tried to identify personalities within the teams, and arrange photo-calls for them, she was hindered by inco-operative players wishing only to be noticed for their activities on the field, not off it.

The image of women's sport does little to help sell the product. Martina Navratilova may be the most successful woman tennis player of all time, but her openness about her lifestyle has cost her dear in endorsement contracts. But with more than US\$18m in prize-money to her name, she can afford it. Further down the financial scale, women are trying to juggle a career in sport and a career to pay the mortgage.

The Women's Sports Foundation has realised the need to educate athletes in the ways of the business world, and is running training programmes for women, teaching them how to talk to the press, agents, and sponsors.

Rollason would like to see some liaison between the governing bodies of women's sport and television.



Gunnell: world champion



Rollason: need for liaison



Fairbrother: gold medal

"They don't realise the needs of television, what we are looking for when a tournament is on," she said. "They need to meet and talk to the commissioning editors. But ultimately, it is not because of television that the sport is successful, it is because of the success of the sportswomen themselves. Success breeds success, and it is that which makes editors say, 'I must get this in my programme.'"

But if women's sport needs a role model, it need look no further than women's golf. Under the guidance of Terry Coates, the Women Professional Golfers' European Tour has built on the success of the Solheim Cup in 1992, and now has a 14-event, £2m schedule for next year. By careful bargaining of what he calls "blue-chip events", Coates has persuaded SkySports to cover small tournaments, and has also negotiated a clothing deal with Marks and Spencer. He encourages his players to show their personalities, talk to the spectators, and get to know the media.

With a background in business and marketing, Coates is using the system to show his sport to its best advantage, knocking on every door until he gets a response. He admits he is lucky to have several young and attractive players on the tour who are easy to market. "But I also know no one will watch if they can't play," he said.

"I would never dream of telling a golfer how to play golf, but professional sport is more than just hitting a golf ball. If a tin of beans comes out of the factory without a label, no one is going to buy it. Marketing is all about putting the label on the tin, so people notice it, recognise it, and buy it."

Nicholson team to triumph in Kempton showpiece

Barton Bank can crown Maguire's glorious year

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

ADRIAN Maguire, the country's outstanding jump jockey, believes Barton Bank can crown his fantastic year by winning the King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Kempton this afternoon.

The David Nicholson-trained chaser, unbeaten in his six completed starts over fences, is improving fast, has a high cruising speed and is sufficiently adaptable to handle any ground.

The only slight worry is a tendency to put in one sloppy jump during a race but in a slightly below standard King George where there are question marks against all the leading contenders he is worth looking at.

Maguire said yesterday: "Barton Bank has run and won twice this season and apart from one mistake each time, he has jumped well. He could not be described as a natural jumper, and never will be, but he jumps well enough and has his own way of doing things."

"I schooled Barton Bank on

Thursday and he was fine. He likes to bowl along in front but when he goes around Kempton there will be plenty of front runners and I don't think he has to make a mistake. He has a very high cruising speed and with the strong gallop being on in the race it will suit him to sit in behind. I think

my horse has a big chance. If he shows the same form as when winning the Charlie Hall Chase at Wetherby, he will be hard to beat."

The recent Ascot winner, Young Hustler, has been well placed in recent days and is now the 3-1 favourite with most leading firms, having displaced The Fellow at the head of the market. There is considerable confidence be-

hind Nigel Twiston-Davies's tough, front-running performer. However, he has to show improved form to win today, and it is worth recalling that Barton Bank handed out a seven-length beating to Young Hustler at Cheltenham just over 12 months ago when conceding weight.

The Fellow is back to his best, he will be hard to beat around a course which suits him so well. Although only eight, the French chaser has jumped fences for nearly five years and may be past his best. There have been problems with broken blood vessels and the fitting of blinkers hardly inspires confidence.

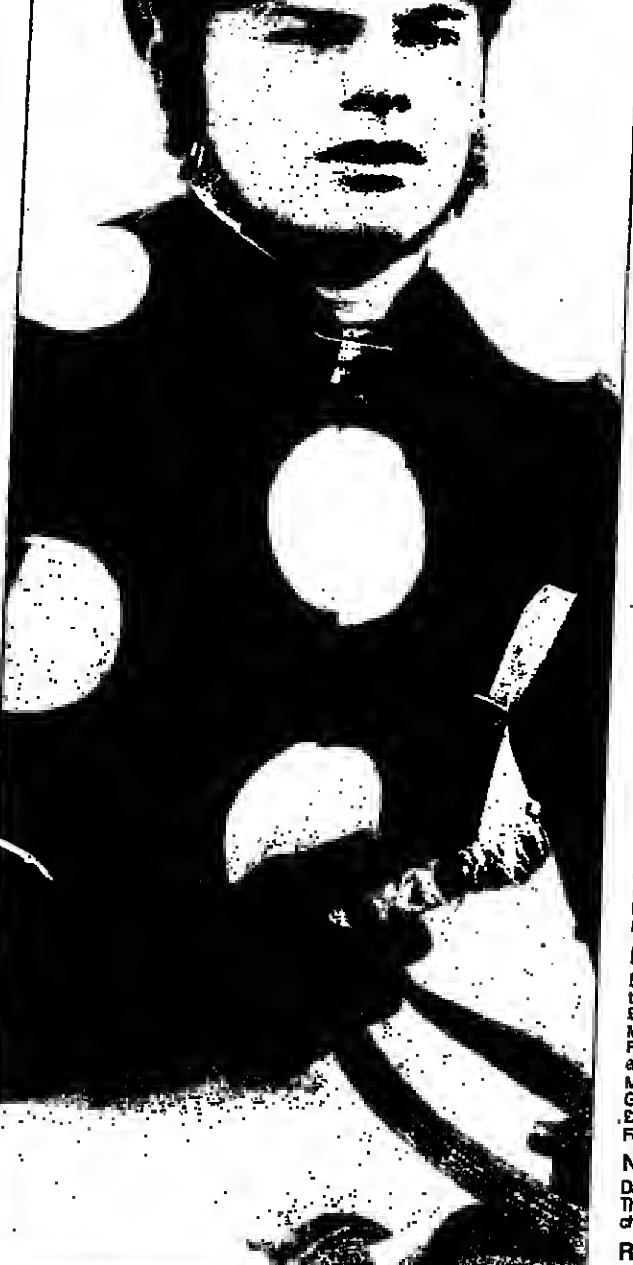
Bradbury Star reserves his best form for Cheltenham and is ideally suited by fast ground, a point reflected by the significant support with Ladbrokes yesterday. He was out from 7-1 to 9-2. Docklands Express, who ran with promise on his seasonal debut at Doncaster recently, is another who will appreciate the forecast ground conditions.

Of the outsiders, Travado

has the best claims by far, and is overpriced by bookmakers. Being a son of String Gale, the Arkle Trophy winner should have reasonable prospects of staying three miles. The Nicksy Henderson-trained runner worked nicely on Thursday and Jamie Osborne is hopeful of a bold showing.

At Wetherby, punters will not get rich if One Man and Last 'O' The Bunch land a short-priced double, as expected, for Gordon Richards. However, there may be value to be had in the Rowland Meyrick Chase, where Carbiside is slightly preferred ahead of his more fancied stable companion Mr Boston after an emphatic defeat of Dublin Flyer at Doncaster.

Sailors Luck has prospered this season and is still on a winning mark, despite falling last time out. He can oblige in the Harry Duffose Handicap at Wincanton, where Cool And Easy is taken to follow up a recent Falkenberg victory in the Lord Stalbridge Memorial Gold Cup.



Maguire predicts a bold show from Barton Bank

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Craftsman leaves memories and Motherwell behind him



Trust a winger to slip clear on the blindside. Dave Cooper went past the entire country on Saturday. While everyone's eyes were fixed on Christmas, he left top-flight football behind him, moving from Motherwell to rejoin his first professional club, Clydebank.

Cooper has spent the last 16 years in the premier division. It is usually only the grizzled thugs who last so long, yet, when you have as much talent as Cooper, it takes time to dispense it all. He is the most gifted footballer Scotland has produced since Kenny Dalglish.

The bulk of the evidence for that contention was supplied during his 12 years at Ibrox. He produced his greatest performances with Rangers. Now, there are few wingers to

be seen and none at all with Cooper's classical skill.

That left foot could — still can — manipulate the ball as deftly as a huckster working the three-shell trick in a bunco booth, yet, for all the intricacy, his was an easy, fluid style. Where lesser performers squirm and bore their way past markers, Cooper just drifted.

To this day, Rangers supporters celebrate the recollection of Cooper twice lobbing the ball over Celtic defenders' heads as he ran through to score in the pre-season Drybrough Cup final of 1979. His interventions on loftier occasions also ensured a haul of medals. A free-kick goal against Aberdeen in the 1987 Skol Cup final was delivered with such force and accuracy as to seem almost excessive.

The 37-year-old is termed a winger only out of force of habit. Cooper could thrive in any position that depends on craft. Since joining Motherwell in 1989, he has taken on the playmaker's role, ushering and coaxing the rest of the team with passes. The veteran helped the club to collect the Scottish Cup in 1991.

His has been a huminous life in the game yet, in a broader perspective, he will remain obscure. It is not that his artistry satisfies only local tastes. During the Champions League last season, Rudi Gullit was asked about Scottish football. This, you feared, was demanding too much of the great Dutch forward's memory banks. Not at all. The Milan player launched into an encomium of Cooper.

Despite that, the raw facts

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish Commentary

will conceal Cooper's eminence. Scotland have reached the World Cup finals on four occasions: since Rangers bought him, but Cooper has made only two appearances in the forefront of tournaments, both as substitute.

The dossier on wasted talent overflows with so many documents that you can scarcely get the drawer shut in Scottish football's filing cabinet. Cooper's tale, however, does not deserve to be lodged there. He might recoil from the fitness fanaticism of peers such as Gordon Strachan, but his effectiveness at 31 demonstrates that his body has received sufficient care and maintenance.

The course Cooper has followed has been determined by the strength of his instincts. As a teenager in 1974, he had to be cajoled into senior football. Cooper was deterred by the journey from his Lanarkshire home to Clydebank and the club were obliged to find him an old banger before he would sign.

Nor was he inclined to

travel on from Kilbourne. Rangers were able to secure his services only because he had supported them since boyhood. The notion of a move to England has obsessed many Scots, but it barely appears to have flickered across Cooper's mind. All the same, it should not be assumed that the winger is hampered by diffidence or shyness.

Arguing with referees and provoking crowds are specialties. Celtic supporters have always berated him and he, in turn, is adroit at riling them. In a deeper sense, though, Cooper is self-contained.

Other people's expectations cannot touch him. Dalgligh was a greater figure only because his flair was topped off with a diligence born of ambition.

Such impulses are foreign to Cooper. There is a low-key imperturbability about him which is apparent even in his haircut. Cooper stuck with his Eddie Cochran, proto-rock style even when other stars were lapsing into shaggy perms. Success with *Rangers* was, in the same way, quite sufficient for him. Injured, he forced Cooper to drop out of the 1990 World Cup just days before it began, but he did no better to pretend that he was utterly desolate.

The might-have-beens are hardly worth a thought. Cooper has conducted his career entirely on his own terms. In a sport as compromised as football, that constitutes a triumph. He played well, he played for *Rangers* and he is playing still. Mission accomplished.

Liverpool's defensive weakness unpunished

Sheffield United	0
Liverpool	0

BY OLIVER HOLT

LIVERPOOL came gift-wrapped in a Braxall Lane Wednesday in a cew kit of gold and black, and with a defence as porous and pedestrian it seemed ideal to give Sheffield United the Christmas flippant that prompts a climb away from their habitual mid-winter position in the lower reaches of the table.

The home team, which has now scored only one goal in eight games and has won once in the past 18 matches, tore at the firm resistance Liverpool offered but failed to penetrate fully open. Spent after a sluggish start, Sheffield United hung on during a combined period that passed in a blur of mediocrity and ended with their fifth goalless draw of the season.

It was hard to believe that this was the same Liverpool team that played its part to the

and five minutes after that, Grobbelaar flung himself through the air to block a 25-yard volley from Hodges and clutched it to his chest at the second attempt.

As Liverpool tottered, exposed down the left flank in particular, Ward unwittingly managed to thread a cross between Davison and Flo as they lurked on the edge of the six-yard box when it seemed scarcely to find either. The best chance came soon afterwards, when Flo advanced on Grobbelaar but squared the ball to Davison, who was in an off-side position, when he should have shot himself.

Davison reached the fourth row of the stand, engulfed in celebrating supporters, before he could see his goal had been scored. Two minutes later, he confined himself to a theatrical fall to the floor when Hodges, unmarked, eight yards out, glanced Flo's cross into the well of Grobbelaar's tipping goal.

"I gave up counting the chances we missed after 20 minutes," Dave Bassett, the Sheffield United manager, said. "But when you are down the bottom you do not get breaks and when you are at the top, you do. We created enough chances to win three times today and we even missed the ball about a bit, which is unusual for us. But there was enough for us to build on."

McManaman, right, the Liverpool winger, tries to escape the attentions of two Sheffield United defenders during the goalless draw at Bramall Lane yesterday.

Stoke give Fry due notice to curb attacking style

Stoke City	2
Birmingham City	1

BY DENNIS SHAW

Also, they had the extra guile from the contribution of Todi Orljesson, who was rightly selected as man of the match. The Icelandic international, signed on a free transfer from Nottingham Forest in

the summer, scored Stoke's first goal in the thirteenth minute.

ARRY Fry was given a three-day demonstration of the size of the task he was undertaking as the new manager of Birmingham City. His first move was to move his office to the fifth floor in the first division with their seventh successive home victory.

When Fry, the former manager of Southend and Barnet, moved to St Andrews, he was given the daunting task of changing the dominant nature of the many Midlands clubs in this division. Given his first-hand experience before the television cameras, he would only agree that the way ahead, in attempting to guide Birmingham away from relegation danger, is a hazardous one.

Backed by around 5,000 supporters, Birmingham poured their heart and soul into Fry's cause, just as they

Backed by around 5,000 supporters, Birmingham poured their heart and soul into Fry's cause just as they



Baggio claims European award

ROBERTO Baggio, the Juventus forward, was confirmed as the European Footballer of the Year yesterday after a year in which he has emerged as possibly the first outstanding player of the Nineties. Named World Player of the Year by Fifa, the sport's governing body, last week at the World Cup draw in Las Vegas, he predictably added the European title in overwhelming fashion in the annual poll of European coaches conducted by *France Football* magazine.

VOTING

Chelsea hope to end poor spell

By KEVIN J. HARRIS

"In the last few weeks," he said, "It has not been his fault that we have lost the last few games. He has been excellent for us. It is not just his save but his presence and strong character. We certainly need few of those around at the moment."

and Chelsea at the *Real Del* appears to be a relegation dogfight only halfway through the season. Indeed, should Chelsea drop at the Swindon Town defeat at the end of the County Ground, Glenn Hoddle's team will find itself pinned to the bottom of the table by 1.45 this afternoon — hardly the position he or Ken Bates can have envisaged when Hoddle arrived at Stamford Bridge in the summer.

Since beating Manchester United and Liverpool in successive matches at Stamford Bridge in September, Chelsea have endured an agonising run in which they have taken just two points out of 30 and scored three goals in 900 minutes.

Two victories and three draws have given Swindon an overdue reward for their performance with style in a season's lost cause, and they will take Arsenal with the wholehearted backing of many neutrals. David Seaman, the Arsenal goalkeeper, and too often their former playmaker for Ian Wright remains unaffected by the criticism levelled at his team.

"There's a lot of pressure on us from the fans," Seaman said yesterday. "They expect us to win the championship, and nothing short of four wins in the next week will be enough to close the gap on Manchester United."

seven games since his £1.5 million move from Stoke City has staked an early claim for transfer turkey of the season, and Hoddle has been forced on to the sidelines by a combination of flu and injury. His chances of returning to lead by example are not rated highly.

Are Arsenal negative? "Nothing has changed in our tactics since I've been here," Seaman insists. "The team is playing no differently to when we won the league, and it's certainly no different to last year's side which won the FA Cup and Coca-Cola Cup, and that wasn't too bad. We've had a rough patch but we will get it right."

Still, where there is David Beasant there is hope for Hoddle. Discarded by the London club after a series of much-publicised howlers, the former England goalkeeper is embarking on a revival with Southampton after 12 miserable months. Whether he is enjoying it is another matter. The four matches since he replaced Ian Andrews have brought four defeats, and another one today will increase calls from the Southampton terraces for Ian Branfoot's head. Branfoot, though, is backing 33-year-old Beasant.

Teddy Sheringham, the Tottenham Hotspur striker who has missed 12 matches after undergoing surgery on damaged knee ligaments, is unlikely to be risked against Norwich City at White Hart Lane this afternoon or in the match tomorrow at Upton Park, but Sheringham has made the most of his enforced lay-off, agreeing to a new three-year contract which is reported to be worth the best part of £1 million.

ing 33-year-old Beasant. "Dave has been outstanding

Consortium awaits Everton decision

THE struggle to win control of Everton, whose troubles in the FA Carling Premiership last season have exceeded even their Merseyside neighbours, Liverpool, may be resolved tomorrow. Two controversial, one led by Bill Kenwright, the theatre impresario and director of the club, and the other by Peter Johnson, the chairman of the Manchester Rovers, are expected to know which is to take the helm at Goodison Park before the home match against Sheffield Wednesday.

However, yesterday Kenwright's group betrayed doubts about the grounds of the decision by retaining denials that it was Manchester-based and therefore unsuitable to run a Merseyside club.

"We absolutely refuse these allegations," Tony Tighe, a member of the consortium, said. "It is a load of rubbish. We are all staunch Evertonians all season ticket-holders of long standing. I personally go to every home game and the majority of away matches. It is just fighting dirty and we are not in that game. We don't want Everton's good name being dragged down by this."

The group, which boasts the backing of the Moores family (who presently owns the club), comprises Kenwright, Tighe, a public relations businessman, Professor Tom Cannon, former head of Manchester Business School, Arthur Abercrombie, the building entrepreneur, and Mike Dyble, the advertising specialist.

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE

	Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Manchester Utd	22	53	+26	DWDWD
2 Leeds	22	40	+12	WWLWD
3 Blackburn	21	39	+11	DWWWW
4 Newcastle	21	36	+18	LWDWD
5 Arsenal	21	34	+7	WLDWL
6 Liverpool	21	32	+7	EWDDD
7 Norwich	19	31	+9	DLDWL
8 QPR	20	31	+8	LDDLW
9 Aston Villa	21	31	+1	LDLLL
10 Ipswich	21	29	-4	WDWDW
11 West Ham	21	29	-7	WWLWL
12 Wimbledon	21	28	-4	LDWWL
13 Sheffield Wed	21	27	+6	WWDLW
14 Tottenham	21	27	+5	DLDWD
15 Coventry	20	23	-2	LDLWD
16 Everton	21	23	-6	DWLDL
17 Manchester City	21	19	-8	LDLLL
18 Oldham	21	19	-16	WDWLD
19 Sheffield Utd	22	18	-15	WDWDL
20 Chelsea	21	15	-10	LDLLD
21 Southampton	21	14	-14	LLLLL
22 Swindon	21	14	-24	LDLDW

Weekly change Up Stayed the same Down

First-
men g
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Stirling's

by distance

Cheshire

Cheshire won the veterans' match 2-1 level with a victory by the same score as the draw in the senior match left both teams on level terms with the same goal difference. Cheshire, as holders, earned the right to keep the trophy.

In the all-important senior match there was no score at half-time, but soon after the resumption of play Lancashire were ahead with a well taken goal by John Words, who picked up a centre from the right.

Andy Aldred levelled the score for Cheshire, but John Bell restored Lancashire's lead in the 45th minute. Thirteen minutes later Crutchley decided the fate of the match and

ROCK page 26

One hit succeeds
another in Wembley
Arena at Madness's
Christmas show

ARTS

BOOKS page 27

Reality is to the
imagination what ash
stakes are to vampires,
says Stephen King



SIX SHOWS THAT SHOCKED THE WORLD: *Times* critics relive the century's great cultural sensations

The film they loved to ape

DAY ONE: Geoff Brown looks back to 1933 and the premiere in New York of *King Kong*, the first great monster movie

The date is Thursday, March 2, 1933: two days away from President Roosevelt's inauguration. Over 15 million Americans are out of work. There are breadlines outside, but you are seated in comfort in one of the most splendid theatres in the world, Radio City Music Hall in New York, just opened in a blaze of Art Deco glory. In your hands you hold a

'After Kong, no movie monster left a city unscathed'

souvenir programme. "Out of an uncharted, forgotten corner of the world," you read, eyes widening, "a monster... surviving seven million years of evolution... crashes into the haunts of civilisation... on to the talking screen... to stagger the imagination of man!"

The curtains, vast enough to need 13 motors to get them moving, part to reveal the main attraction: *King Kong*, made for RKO Pictures by Merian C. Cooper and Ernest B. Schoedsack. Three descending, dark orchestral chords thunder out from the film soundtrack. The cast list promises willowy heroine Fay Wray, hard-boiled character-player Robert Armstrong, a new actor, Bruce Cabot, and, in particularly large letters, King Kong himself, modestly described as "the eighth wonder of the world".

Your imagination prepares to be staggered, though at first the story's settings prove nothing new. New York's docks, Times Square, a girl trying to steal from a fruit stall: these are run-of-the-mill scenes. But then Armstrong, cast as a pipe-smoking director who makes "moving pictures in jungles and places", prevents Miss Wray fainting from hunger, signs her up for his latest venture, and sails off with cameras and crew for a secret destination.

Along the way, you hear talk of Skull Island is sighted through the fog, and the film crew approach a landscape with the dense detail and fantasy of a Gustave Doré illustration. "Holy mackerel, what a show!" Armstrong shouts as he watches village natives preparing to sacrifice a nubile girl to something that lives beyond a huge wall and a towering gate, held in place by a bolt the size of Nelson's Column.

Forty minutes after the curtains parted, the terrifying leading man — this monster who crashes the haunts of civilisation — appears. He is a 50-foot gorilla, who roars, flares his nostrils and beats his chest like no other movie hero. The blonde Wray he takes to immediately, despite her constant screaming; most other humans who fall in his path get scooped up into his mouth, or cast aside like dust. His strength is colossal. "What a man!" a young spectator shouts; a response reported in *The New York Times* review.

There are more horrors yet. A supporting cast of prehistoric creatures do battle with Kong or man, or both. A stegosaurus is felled by gunfire. Eager to protect his new female playmate, Kong gives a tyrannosaurus rex a thorough hiding plus a broken jaw, and tosses away a pterodactyl as though it were a broken umbrella. Wray, her clothes in disarray, wriggles helplessly inside Kong's huge hand.

Sometimes you laugh at the horrors depicted, maybe to cover fright. Most times you sit there, awed and gripped.

Then this superbly constructed film reaches the finale. Kong, stunned by gas bombs, is crated



"The world's eighth wonder then moves onto what might be the ninth, the Empire State Building, only just opened. Bi-planes fly in, strafing him with bullets"

and shipped to New York, a delicate process that happens, infuriatingly, off-screen. Taking his cue from P.T. Barnum, Armstrong is now presenting Kong, the world's eighth wonder, as a Broadway theatre attraction. "We've knocked some of the fight out of him since you saw him," Armstrong tells an understandably wary Wray.

The fight soon returns. Kong breaks his chains and runs rampant through Manhattan, seeking his girl. His face looms outside apartment windows, and a hairy arm reaches through the door to check who's home alone. Train passengers tumble into a heap as Kong wrecks the elevated track: one of them could be you, returning home after this movie.

The world's eighth wonder, 50 feet tall, then moves onto what might be the ninth, the Empire State Building, 1250 feet tall, opened only the previous May. Buzzing bi-planes fly in, strafing

him with bullets. He places Wray carefully on a ledge, he keels over, and tumbles down to the ground. Does he squash cars, or cause a crater? You never know; all you see is a heap of dead gorilla, police in attendance, while Armstrong delivers the wrap-up line. Airplanes didn't destroy Kong, he says: "I was beauty killed the beast".

Over the next few weeks, people flock to marvel and occasionally giggle at a film that will revolutionise cinema fantasy and save its studio from bankruptcy. On March 24, Kong makes his official Los Angeles debut at Grauman's Chinese Theatre. Soon after he swamps the cinemas of the world, carrying advertising slogans like "The Strangest Story Ever Conceived By Man" or "The Greatest Film The World Will Ever See".

Was it is? Sixty years on, *King Kong* remains a genuine classic, though one we tend to take for granted. So many monster off-

spring have been spawned in its wake, while computers have taken special effects beyond any realm envisaged by Willis O'Brien, the genius responsible for the stop-motion photography and model work that brought the big ape to life.

But imagine the impact in 1933, when outside, prehistoric creatures were as rare as hen's teeth. For a version of Conan Doyle's *The Lost World* in 1925, O'Brien had created a brontosaurus who laid waste London buildings with a whisk of its tail and ended the film by falling off Tower Bridge. The manager of *King Kong*, though, was far bigger, scarier, hairier.

Another thing: they made sounds. Who in the public, before 1933, had ever heard prehistoric monsters roar, belch and screech? Five years earlier, before talkies became the norm, movie characters were still communicating in dumb show. Now, suddenly, fearsome

creatures were vocalising in a primeval forest. The sound team used every trick in the book. Conventional animal sounds were recorded an octave lower, backwards, upside down. They were then combined with motley ovelities: the thud of a drumstick on the soundman's back; someone grunting unpleasantly into a gourd.

Not to mention the screams. No one in cinema had ever screamed as much as Fay Wray: once Kong was sighted, she opened her mouth and let rip, scene after scene. Then came Max Steiner, adding his pennyworth on the soundtrack with one of the most extensive and noisiest film scores yet composed.

What's more, audiences watched this monster rampage through the streets outside the very cinema where they sat. Possibly they felt vicarious pleasure, watching the brute destroy a culture that had brought so many lives close to ruin since the Wall Street crash. At any

rate, after Kong no movie monster left a city unscathed.

Two days after *King Kong* was unleashed, Roosevelt took office in Washington. "We have nothing to fear but fear itself," he declared in the inaugural address that launched the New Deal. Good news for many, maybe; but small comfort to audiences quaking in their shoes at this 50-foot ape.

King Kong shook the world. More than *Frankenstein* or *Dracula*, two horror milestones of 1931, it galvanised audiences and stretched the boundaries of film fantasy. Along the way it gave modern gorillas (gentle, vegetarian) an undeserved bad name, made terror a marketable commodity, and paved the way for everything from *Jurassic Park* to *Godzilla* to *Veronica's Sin*. We live under its shadow.

Tomorrow: The advent of Jimi Hendrix, by David Sinclair

How the West End was fun

The big London event of Boxing Day 1893 was the premiere of the new Drury Lane pantomime. More than 3,000 people thronged the theatre, for the cast of *Robinson Crusoe* boasted three of the biggest stars of the music hall — Marie Lloyd, Little Tich and, as Mrs. Crusoe, Dan Leno. The settings and costumes were, as always, sumptuous: the shipwreck was spectacular.

The production was an unmitigated flop. The book was a mess — *Robinson Crusoe* is always the riskiest pantomime story — and the music hall artists confused it even more with irrelevant songs and business. The whole audience was yawning long before the finale, an interminable, jewelled parade of the kings and queens of England from William the Conqueror to Victoria.

Even if this fiasco somewhat dispels the rosy glow of nostalgia that generally surrounds Victorian pantomime, *Crusoe* was a rare exception in a triumphant 40-year run of Drury Lane productions, which transformed the Christmas pantomime into a new and unique style of stage spectacle.

The man responsible was a tubby, balding, bearded dynamo called Augustus Harris who was 28 when he became lessee of the Lane in 1879. His father was a famous operatic impresario, and between pantomimes young Harris presented grand opera at Drury Lane and Covent Garden.

Indeed, he seemed hardly to differentiate between opera and pantomime, particularly when it came to Wagner. For Bernard Shaw it made perfect sense that Harris called *Das Rheingold* "a damned pantomime". Wagner had been

The big-thinking, big-spending Augustus Harris changed pantomime — and Wagner. David Robinson reports

much impressed by English pantomimes, and Shaw declared that the subsequent staging of his operas was deeply indebted to the Drury Lane Christmas shows. "We owe the present enormously effective form of the *Nibelung* trilogy, a work which towers among the masterpieces of the world's art, to the persistence of just such entertainments as *Aladdin*."

Never before had London seen such stage spectacle as Harris gave them. An army of designers, scene painters, costumers, prop-makers, wig-makers and engineers worked for months on the preparation of the dozen or more different scenes in the pantomime.

The production employed upwards of 700 people, some 500 of whom, including extras and children, might appear on stage. For one pantomime Harris introduced an arrangement of giant mirrors so that his crowd scenes appeared to go on for ever.

Harris's extravaganzas anticipated the great days of Hollywood. He thought nothing of spending a fortune on a scene and then discarding it on a whim. He bought warehouses full of silks and brocades that were never used. It was said that when a comedian asked if he could introduce a new joke about an English and a French sailor, Harris was enthusiastic. "Certainly, my boy," he said. "Put it in and we'll arrange a procession for it — sailors of all nations."

Every pantomime featured a procession; with scores of pretty women dressed to represent Shakespearean characters, roses of all varieties,



A hundred years ago the versatile Dan Leno was bigger than the Beatles among the music hall-going populace

costumes of all nations, sports, nursery rhymes, figures from Greek mythology, fish or fowl. The Harris pantomimes had their detractors. Traditionalists blamed them for the extinction of the transformation scene and the harlequinade, which had been the traditional finale of the panto-

mime for over a century. Others objected to the invasion of the music hall people.

But Drury Lane's greatest comic star remained above all criticism. Harris had first engaged Leno, then 28, for the 1888 pantomime *The Babes in the Wood*. He was to return each Christmas until his death

in 1904. From Leno's photographs and recordings and the evidence of his contemporaries we can judge that he was one of the greatest comic actors of the British theatre.

Max Beerhohn described his face "puckered with care, whether they were the cares of the small shopkeeper, or the landlady, or of the lodger; that face so tragic, with all the tragedy that is writ on the face of a baby monkey". His characterisations combined brilliant human observation with surreal nonsense in the Lewis Carroll vein. Chattering confidently to his audience, he could people the stage with imaginary beings to whom he would address animated asides.

Tiny and nervous, Leno was ideally teamed with the heavy-weight, phlegmatic Herbert Campbell. Both possessed a surprising gift of pathos: as a wildly grotesque pair of Babes in the Wood they suddenly stilled the laughter with their gentle singing of the angel's song from *Hansel and Gretel*.

In 1902 Leno began to suffer from severe mental disturbance, yet that Christmas and the following year he came back to Drury Lane, his comedy as brilliant as ever. In 1904 Campbell was killed in an accident; Leno, apparently grief-stricken, died three months later.

Harris died in 1896, aged 45, but his successor Arthur Collins carried on the tradition. Leno and Campbell were irreplaceable, but Collins brought in some capable comedians — Harry Randall, Will Evans, Stanley and Barry Lupino, George Graves — and maintained the supply of pretty girls and strapping principal boys, until the great Drury Lane tradition came to an end, with *Cinderella*, in 1919.

CONCERT: An eclectic programme from the Hilliard Ensemble

One magnificent polyphonic mass five centuries old, ornate and exquisite plainchant, and four new pieces including a London premiere of a work by James MacMillan and three first British performances: this offering by the Hilliard Ensemble, given as part of Magenta Music's annual Christmas Festival at St John's, Smith Square might be criticised for lacking any Christmas music, but it certainly did not lack imagination.

The Hilliards might not be the last word in period-style performance practice, but the complex rhythms and lines of Ockeghem's *Missa Prolationem* benefit from the clarity that singing the work one voice to a part brings. Sometimes speeds seemed a little hurried, and the variety of dynamic within single phrases occasionally lent the performance a slightly affected air; but those things are all part of the group's identity.

Such fine, committed and poised singing also predictably characterised the four recent works. MacMillan's... here in hiding... jumbles and superimposes St Thomas Aquinas's hymn "Adoro te devote" and Gerard Manley Hopkins's free translation of it. Though this way of dealing with words obscures clarity and context, MacMillan writes as always with the devotion of hearts, painting a varied canvas of lovely sounds for his God.

Dual texts seemed to be a theme of the evening. Elizabeth Liddle's *Whale Ram* also has one (or two), both taken from Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*. But here they are opposites. Father Mapple's hymn takes us from damnation to redemption, while Ahab's soliloquy rejects redemption in favour of eternal hell. Liddle's music maintains this polarity, setting the

Old and new in harmony

priest's words to a pious hymn sung by two tenors and simultaneously giving the darker words to the bass in music of a dense, declamatory style. No dynamic opposition is set up, no interreaction occurs, and again intelligibility is compromised.

Piers Hellawell's *River and Shadow*, a duet setting of Donne's "A Lecture upon the Shadow" and Apollinaire's "Le Pont Mirabeau", alternates rather than superim-

poses texts, and the composer is thus able to emphasise both common ground and differences of emphasis — decay in Donne, stasis in Apollinaire. Unafraid of Poullencian echoes in his French settings, and of onomatopoeia — the breaking up of texture to signify fragmentation of love — in the Donne, Hellawell has made an artful and pregnant work.

So, in a very different way, has the American composer Jackson Hill in his *Aki no ko-e* ("Voices of Autumn"), a setting of a ninth-century Japanese text which consists essentially of delicate micro-inflections upon a single, sustained A minor chord. Such space-creating poignancy is what minimalism should be all about, but too rarely is.

STEPHEN PETTITT

Drawings from The J. Paul Getty Museum

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The man who lived his life in reverse

James Woodall enjoys a monumental biography of an eccentric Parisian who was obsessed with numbers

Georges Perec died in 1982 aged 46. Some might say that it is too soon to have a biography of a relatively unknown French novelist. As with Joyce's *Ulysses*, Perec's book *Life: A User's Manual* is one of those epic slabs of modern literature that many have heard of but few have read. David Bellos, who translated it, has now written a biography coextensive with that enormous novel, and even appears to want to outclass its author.

The novel is 580 pages long, including the index: this life is 800 pages long, including no less than three indexes. One of them contains, under "Paris", a list of 74 street names which has to be a first for any kind of index.

Bellos has inherited Perec's obsession for numerical detail, and much else besides: a love of lists, topographic exactitude, a shameless zest for peppering his text with diagrams. In an entertainingly post-modern gesture, we even have lists, at the end of each chapter, of the names and sources from which Bellos has culled his material. It is a bit like being offered a play and its rehearsals together.

Couldn't *A User's Manual* have kicked around for a few more years, giving us a chance to read and inwardly digest it before having to address so monumental a slab of biography?

That is perhaps to miss the

GEORGES PEREC
A Life in Words
By David Bellos
Harvill, £35



Perec: idiosyncratic

point. In an age without heaven, biography — literary biography in particular — has become funeral rite, sepulchre and resurrection rolled into one. A life thus immortalised, moreover, is an easy way to sidestep the works. Who is really going to read *La Disparition* (The Disappearance), Perec's novel written without using the letter "e"? We can read all about it here. If Bellos is guilty of anything, it is of positively encouraging us to become literary voyeurs rather than readers.

Beyond that, it is hard to fault him. A translator is not necessarily a good writer let

alone biographer. Bellos is both: he paints an intimate, sympathetic and not uncritical portrait of a man who lived his life in reverse.

Orphaned during the war — his father was killed defending France in 1940, his mother disappeared in Auschwitz — Perec was brought up, haphazardly, by an aunt and uncle in Paris. Everything about his childhood — dispossession, disease, rootlessness — resembled the experiences of many three times his age in that terrible period.

He started to enjoy life in the late Fifties — in Paris, an era of jazz, Marxism, the *nouveau roman*. Perec became his own idiosyncratic self: Camus was of "no importance", New Novelist supreme Alain Robbe-Grillet was "not a writer but a laboratory technician", he averred.

His name of literary age in the 1960s, and started to travel. Not until 1975 did he meet Catherine Binec, the woman with whom he might have shared a long life had lung cancer not killed him seven years later. By then Perec's fame rested squarely on *Life: A User's Manual*.

After childhood, it was not an eventful life — all the more surprising, then, that Bellos could have made such a fine book out of it. More time is needed to absorb Perec's real achievement in words: Bellos's superbly crafted memorial testifies to the value of reading most of them.

evidence that she took a camera along with her is the cover picture of a laden bicycle against a red-brick wall.

Czechoslovakia was a bit better, although the hills made it terrible for cycling. But the people were more jolly and apparently liked getting up in national costume and, doing folk dances. Fairly enough, the old Communists were rather keen on that sort of thing, but Scott-Stokes seemed to think it was all part of throwing off the yoke. Another part was that Czech restaurants cheat you on the bill. Still, she thought Prague was pretty, and she liked Bratislava too. And she noticed that Czechs and Slovaks didn't seem to like each other much.

So on to Hungary. I was worried for Natasha, because Hungary, like most of Poland, is pretty flat. But at least they don't cheat with the restaurant bills. Even so, it was a generally depressing place and Budapest itself, we are told, is "big, black and heavy to digest".

Pedal on to Serbia, nation at war. And we are immediately treated to a lengthy diatribe against journalists for failing to give a balanced account of the war in Yugoslavia. Scott-Stokes, after only a few days on the Serbian roads, was able to set the record straight, even if she was prevented by the police from actually visiting a war zone. But she did talk to some writers at the PEN club in Belgrade.

A few miles south of Belgrade and she seemed to be getting bored with the whole idea. Keen as she was to reveal the truth about Serbia, she managed to miss Kosovo altogether by taking a train to Skopje. Five-and-a-half pages were enough to cover Macedonia, and she was across the border in Greece, enjoying a proper lavatory and dipping her feet in the Aegean.

But the book does have its good points. Scott-Stokes has a nice sense of honesty. Her naïveté, poor planning, ineptitude on the bicycle and limited budget are all laid before us. She also confesses to taking trains when the hills are too steep and, most importantly, to the fact that she did not do the trip alone, but with her husband. But overall, the book is a wasted opportunity.

IN JULY 1945 Henry Thoreau built by hand a house near a pond in Massachusetts. He wished to live deliberately and *Walden* (1854), his record of his time there, has since become one of the classics of American literature. Its philosophy runs deep into the American psyche. Figures as diverse as Robert Frost, Frank Lloyd Wright and John F. Kennedy have all been inspired by Thoreau's ideas of self-reliance and contemplation. Unfortunately, he enjoyed little success in his own lifetime.

Henry S. Salt initially had



These indigobirds are among 1,400 birds on the list of the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in which it is forbidden to trade, writes Simon Barnes. But would most people know a Moluccan from, say, a lesser sulphur-crested cockatoo? Could the average customs man tell the difference? Now you can check them all out in *The Birds Of CITES And How To Recognise Them* by Johannes Erritzoe, the Lutterworth Press (Cambridge), £34

Tales to make the flesh creep

Peter Millar

NIGHTMARES AND DREAMSCAPES

By Stephen King
Hodder & Stoughton, £16.99

There is something satisfying about the idea of Stephen King being haunted. Any man who has put as much effort as he has into robbing millions of their sleep deserves a few insomniac hours himself.

But what King appears particularly to dread is the old familiar artist's nightmare: losing his muse. In a lengthy self-justifying introduction to this, his latest collection of short stories, there is a glimpse of an angry middle-aged man peeping out from behind billion-dollar ramparts to snipe at critics who accuse him of over-writing and the ability to make a million by publishing his laundry list. But, as he astutely notes, those who accuse him of that are those who think it is all he has been doing for the last two decades.

These stories are presented, therefore, as a defence against allegations that economy is the element most critically lacking from King's prose style. Each one, he claims, is a little exercise in belief from a man who thinks reality is to the imagination "what ash stakes are to vampires".

King has been cursed by comparisons. He was quickly labelled the Edgar Allan Poe of his generation for the simple fact that, compared to many others who mine the same seam, he can actually write. Merely by ticking the keys on his word processor, King can make flesh creep half a world away. But where he differs from so many chills-mechanics is that his horror is rarely gratuitous and often informed with a wry humour that is unmistakably contemporary rather than Gothic.

As in the tale of the couple who, in classic horror-story fashion, stray off the main road and end up in the familiar small-town version of hell, only a hell inhabited by Janis Joplin, Roy Orbison and Duane Allman in which Elvis Presley is the mayor and every evening is a rock concert that lasts forever. My other favourite is "The Ten O'Clock People", a bizarre fusion of the idea behind *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* and an attack on America's politically correct anti-smoking fascism.

King enjoys displaying his competence in other people's styles also. This collection includes a spoof of Conan Doyle, in which Watson solves a mystery that is every bit as absurd as some of the originals. But better is "Umney's Last Case", a parody of the Raymond Chandler school of drop-dead one-liners. Here's King's private dick's description of an "LA-perfect" morning: "The exhaust of the vehicles parked on Sunset smelled faintly of oleander, the oleander was lightly perfumed with exhaust, and the sky overhead was as clear as a hardshell Baptist's conscience." But this story turns out to have a twist that is more King than Chandler as Umney's perfect world suddenly starts to come apart, literally, at the seams.

There is also Hitchcock here in "Dolan's Cadillac", the sinister story, almost entirely devoid of the supernatural, of and sensitive introduction. Indeed, unlike some thinkers, the story of Thoreau's life genuinely facilitates the study of his ideas, as he practised what he preached. Salt recounts how, opposing the Mexican War and slavery, Thoreau refused to pay his poll tax and spent a night in prison in 1845.

It is good to see the definitive version of Salt's work finally published. Perhaps what is most refreshing though, is that Salt's *Life* may in some small way raise Thoreau's profile on this side of the Atlantic.

a man single-mindedly bent on revenge. It would make a great movie. It probably will. The only jarring note is "Head Down", a would-be piece of Tom Wolfe's New Journalism, as applied to little league baseball. It was commissioned by *The New Yorker* and is apparently included here to prove that he really can write. Until I read it, I had no doubts. Stick to the mystery and imagination, Steve.

PAPERBACKS

SHOWMAN: THE LIFE OF DAVID O. SELZNICK
By David Thomson
Abacus, £9.99

HOLLYWOOD'S most charismatic and gifted producer was hardly a self-made man. His father preceded him in the mushrooming film business, making and losing a fortune in less than a decade, practising throughout the cheerful optimism that made his third and favourite son secretary of the Selznick Pictures Corporation while still in his teens. The eventual crash was not as catastrophic as either father or son liked to pretend. Marriage to the daughter of Louis B. Mayer cemented David's pre-eminence, enabling him to push through *King Kong* and *Gone With the Wind*. Thomson portrays a remarkable family with sympathetic frankness, and offers an unparalleled picture of the inner workings of Hollywood.

SILENT DUCHESSE
By Dacia Maraini
Flamingo, £5.99

GIFTED Sicilian noblewoman Marianna Ucria, mysteriously deaf-mute from early childhood and married off at 13 to her graceless uncle, moves from one mid-18th century ducal household to another to become a childbearing machine for the dynasty, her intelligence hidden behind a wall of silence. A lifetime later, inspired by friendships and her reading of philosophy, she simply liberates herself, choosing independence over late-flowering sexual happiness. A sumptuous novel, and a subversive slice of European history.

THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE
By Elizabeth Jenkins
Virago, £5.99

IN HER best-known novel, first published in the 1950s, Jenkins paints a subtle portrait of a sensitive woman frozen into inaction by feelings of inadequacy. Inroogen Gresham lives in the shadow of her husband Evelyn, a distinguished KC whom she loves and admires, but to whom she cannot really respond sexually. She sees her marriage disintegrate as Evelyn is lured away by their country neighbour, the rich, bluff and tweedy Blanche Silcox. Poetic, almost dreamlike descriptions of the house and garden echo Inroogen's own growing sense of unreality. A delicately observant novel that leaves a chill behind.

Contributors: Brian Morton, Alison Burns, Hazel Leslie

She got on her bike

Robin Lodge

THE AMBER TRAIL
By Natasha Scott-Stokes
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £17.99

When Natasha Scott-Stokes got on her bike in the Baltic city of Gdansk in June 1992 and wobbled off in the general direction of Greece, the idea was to follow an ancient trade route, which brought amber to Athens and Rome. As it turned out, she found no evidence that amber did actually go that way, but it was a good excuse for a fascinating journey through the new democracies of Eastern Europe.

The idea was excellent. The bicycle-saddle viewpoint was sure to be far more informative than the sanitised observations of the practised motorway cruiser. I looked forward to sharing Natasha's grumbling slog through the potholes of the former communist empire.

But what do we get? Well, you can write off Poland, for a start. Greedy people, too many

drunks, nasty food, ugly factories and too flat. Krakow? The architecture is an anticlimax and a "painful mix" of styles. Other towns? "One medieval town square looked much like another. I soon gave up taking out my camera." Indeed she did. The only

THIS WEEK'S OFFERS

LONDON
Shakespeare Theatre
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THE offer of a combined theatre ticket and lunch or afternoon tea was so popular that we have managed to extend it to all Wednesday matinees in January (January 12, 19 & 26). Tickets are £30 with lunch or £22.50 with tea (the normal price of a ticket only is £30). Tel: 0800 330588

HULL
Spitting Street Theatre
Up to Under-17s - The Story Continues
Dec 28-31, 7.45pm and 7.30pm

HULL
Truck Theatre Company
Carnegie
Christmas show is John Galsworthy's hilarious sequel to Up to Under, the best-loved comedy to reach Christmas pudding. Two to 45 tickets for the price of one. Tel: 0482 23638

SCARBOROUGH
Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round
The End of the Food Chain
Dec 30, 7.30pm
TWO £12 tickets for the price of one to see this hilarious comedy by Piro Paris, set in a grocery distribution depot. Tel: 01723 37054

MANCHESTER
Royal Exchange Theatre
The Importance of Being Earnest
Jan 3-7, 7.30pm
OSCAR Wilde's sparkling comic classic is the perfect entertainment for the festive season. Club members who buy a £12 ticket will get a copy of the Royal Exchange Theatre Record (normally £5.95) and a free glass of wine. Tel: 061 333 9833

LEICESTER
Haymarket Theatre
The Thief
Dec 31, Jan 1, 7-8, 14-15, 21-22pm (Jan 3 & 15, 3pm)
TICKETS £5 (normally £9)

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

For this psychological thriller written and directed by Gavin Robertson, one of *Underworld*'s producers. Tel: 0233 339791

BASINGSTOKES
Basingstoke Theatre
Killing Robert
Jan 7-9, 7.45pm and 7.30pm
A fast-paced and very funny thriller written by John Levis, author of *Killing Robert*. Tickets £12 (normally £14), include a complimentary programme. Tel: 0256 466556

SOUTHAMPTON
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King: reality is to the imagination as ash stakes to a vampire

American psyche

George Trefgarne

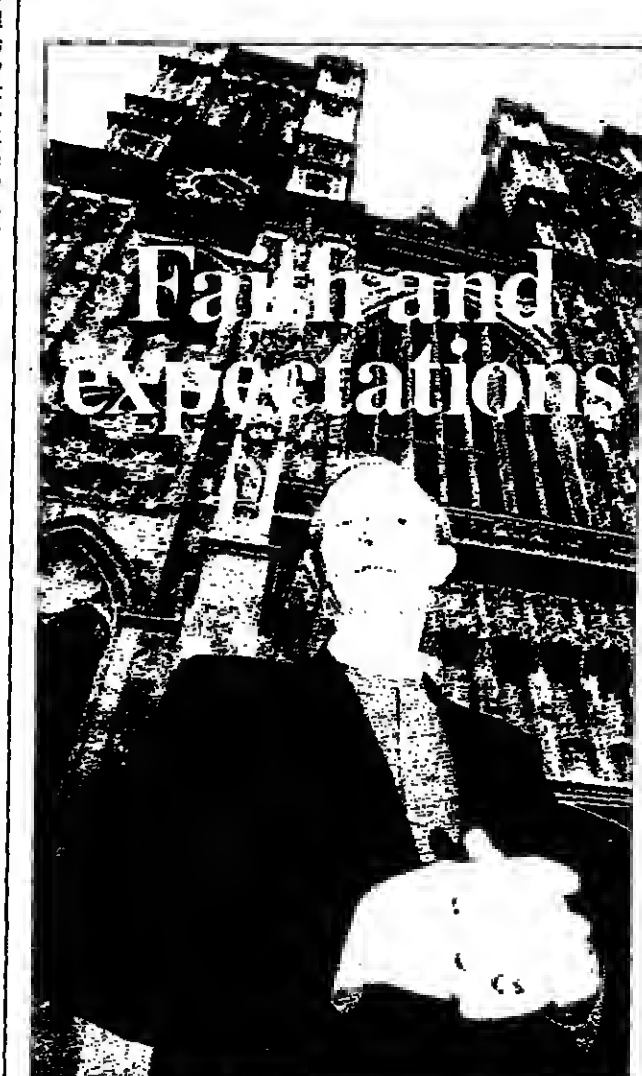
LIFE OF HENRY DAVID THOREAU
By Henry S. Salt
Centaur, £19.95

problems similar to Thoreau's. His first edition of the *Life of Henry David Thoreau* (1890), had sold only eight copies by 1891. The second edition (1896), still had 2,000

unsold in 1908 and he could never find a publisher for this far more comprehensive third edition. Describing himself as a "compendium of cranks", Salt is well placed to respond to his eccentric subject.

Thoreau, who has been labelled everything from an anarchist to a fascist, is not pigeon-holed. Instead, Salt chooses to emphasise Thoreau as a non-conformist.

For the newcomer to Thoreau, Salt provides a readable



The Bishop of Guildford sets out a vision for teachers and Government for the new year. In *The TES*.

OUT THIS FRIDAY

TES

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Court of Appeal

Law Report December 27 1993

Court of Appeal

Sentencing drink-drive killers

'Prostitution' judicially defined for first time

Regina v Shepherd (Attorney General's Reference (No 14 of 1993))
Regina v Wernett (Attorney General's Reference (No 24 of 1993))

Before Lord Taylor of Gossforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Phipps and Mr Justice Scott Baker

[Judgment December 17]

Guidance on sentencing for the new offence of causing death by dangerous driving having consumed alcohol exceeding the prescribed limit was given by the Court of Appeal in a reserved judgment on the first two cases to come before the court by way of references under section 36 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 by the Attorney General who submitted that the sentences passed by the judges at the crown court were unduly lenient.

Peter James Shepherd, aged 29, of Bailey Road, Enfield, Middlesex, had pleaded guilty at Norwich Crown Court before Judge Rimes to two counts of causing the death of Tracey Fairchild and her daughter aged 10 months, for each of which he was fined £250 and he was disqualified for two years and ordered to pay £100 costs.

Robert Stewart Wernett, aged 26, of Paradise Street, St Ebbs, Oxford, had pleaded guilty at Oxford Crown Court before Judge Harris, QC, to causing the death of John McCullum, for which he was sentenced later at that court by Judge May in nine months imprisonment and disqualified for two years. His plea of not guilty to causing death by dangerous driving had been accepted by the court.

Section 3A of the Road Traffic Act 1988, inserted by section 3 of the Road Traffic Act 1991, provides: "If a person causes the death of another person by driving a mechanically propelled vehicle on a road... without that care and attention... and... (b) he has consumed so much alcohol that the proportion of it in his blood... at that time exceeds the prescribed limit... he is guilty of an offence."

As provided by Schedule 2 to the 1988 Act, as amended by Schedule 2 to the 1991 Act, the penalty for the offence, which was triable only on indictment, was five years or a fine or both.

Mr John Nutting for the Attorney General in both cases, Mr Roger D. Harrison for Shepherd, Mr Anthony McGeorge for Wernett.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that section 3A was an entirely new offence, which came into existence on July 1, 1992. However, within a year, by section 67 of the Criminal Justice Act 1992, the maximum sentence for causing death by dangerous driving and the new offence was increased from five years to 10.

The change came into effect on August 16, 1993. In their Lordships' judgment that increase was not retrospective so that neither of the cases before them was affected by it.

The references showed an intent by Parliament to strengthen the criminal law to reduce death on the roads by increasing the punishment available to the courts and by specifically targeting those who caused death while driving with excess alcohol.

The five-year maximum sentence for causing death by dangerous driving had been doubled. In tandem with that, causing death by the less serious form of culpable driving, characterised as "careless", carried the same maximum sentence if coupled with driving while unfit through drink or over the alcohol limit.

Those offences did not require proof of a causal connection between the drink and the death. Thus, under section 3A, whoever drove with excess alcohol did so at his or her peril and, even if the driving was merely careless but death resulted the court's powers to punish were the same as for causing death by dangerous driving.

Guidelines for sentencing in respect of the pre-1991 offence of causing death by reckless driving was laid down in *R v Boswell* (1984) 1 WLR 1047 at a time when the maximum sentence for that offence was five years.

For offences committed before the sentence was increased to 10 years their Lordships considered that the criteria laid down in *Boswell* applied equally to the new offence of causing death by careless driving. In that case, Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, listed first among aggravating features consumption of alcohol or drugs.

He said (at p1052C) that where an aggravating feature was present a custodial sentence was generally necessary.

The offence under section 3A, although requiring proof of only careless rather than dangerous driving, also had built into it the very aggravating feature which was the first in the *Boswell* list.

Thus, where a driver was over the limit and killed someone as a result of his careless driving, a prison sentence would ordinarily be appropriate. The length of the sentence would, of course, depend on the aggravating and mitigating circumstances in the particular case, but especially on the extent of the carelessness and the amount the driver was over the limit.

In an exceptional case, if the alcohol level at the time of the offence was just over the borderline, the carelessness was momentary and there was strong mitigation, a non-custodial sentence might be possible.

But in other cases, a prison sentence was required to deter other persons from drinking and driving and to reflect the public abhorrence of deaths caused by excess alcohol. In regard to that final element, as had been said before in *Boswell* and *R v Pettipiece* (Note 2889) (1991) KTR 186A:

"... more than one person was killed. It is rather illogical in some ways, it might be thought, that a given piece of driving which caused three deaths should be punished more heavily than the identical piece of driving causing one death, or indeed causing no death at all, given that no one suggests this appellant was deliberately driving so as to kill people."

"The fact is that in the public estimation it is a factor which people in general do take into account. People do regard killing three as more criminal than killing one. That is a fact of life which the court recognises."

His Lordship said that, having said that, their Lordships wished to stress that human life could not

be restored nor could its loss be measured by the length of a prison sentence.

Their Lordships recognised that no term of months or years imposed on the offender could reconcile the family of a deceased victim to their loss, nor would it cure their anguish.

Since Parliament had thought it right and necessary not merely to increase but to double the maximum sentences for offences under sections 1 and 3A of the 1988 Act, the guidelines in *Boswell* needed to be reconsidered.

Clearly the statements of principle in that case and the examples of aggravating and mitigating circumstances set out in *Boswell* were not intended to be rigid. However, it was said (at p1052C) that "Drivers who for example indulge in racing on the highway and/or driving with reckless disregard for the safety of others after taking alcohol, should understand that in bad cases they will lose their liberty for two years or more."

In their Lordships' judgment, the phrase "two years or more" should now read "upwards of five years" and to the very worst cases, if contested, sentences would be in the higher range of those now permitted by Parliament.

On application of the principles set out in *Boswell*, neither of the facts of the individual cases and stated that the sentence on Shepherd would be three months imprisonment concurrent on each count and on Wernett 18 months imprisonment with the disqualification increased from two years to five.

Solicitors: CPS, Headquarters; Taylor Vinters, Cambridge; Simms & Co, Oxford.

Regina v McFarlane

Before Lord Taylor of Gossforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Phipps and Mr Justice Scott Baker

[Judgment December 20]

For the first time the meaning of "prostitution" was decided judicially when the Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by a man convicted of living on the earnings of prostitution and determined that, in considering the mischief of harassment and nuisance to members of the public on the streets, the distinction between a "clapper" and a "hooker" was immaterial.

The unsuccessful appeal was brought by Eric McFarlane, aged 39, from his conviction at Knightsbridge Crown Court, before Judge Horner, QC and a jury, on a count charging living wholly or in part on the earnings of the prostitution of a woman, contrary to section 30 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956. He was sentenced to four months imprisonment.

Section 30 provides: "It is an offence for a man to live wholly or in part on the earnings of prostitution."

Mr R. E. Carne, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant, Mr Jeremy Carter-Manning, QC and Mr Christopher Amis, neither of whom appeared below, for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant had lived together as man and wife with Miss Joseph who, on the judge's ruling was a prostitute.

She maintained that she was not a prostitute but a "clapper", one who offered sexual services for reward and pocketed the reward in advance, never intending to provide the services.

The judge in directing the jury had said that there were prostitutes that were honest and prostitutes that were dishonest, and Miss Joseph was a dishonest prostitute.

The point of law to the appeal was the meaning of prostitution which, surprisingly, had not been the subject of judicial decision with any finality before this.

The issue on the appeal was whether, as a matter of law, the judge was correct to rule and direct the jury that a woman who offered herself sexual services and took the

money and failed to provide the services was engaged in prostitution within section 30 of the 1956 Act.

Mr Carne submitted that, to be a prostitute a woman had not only to offer sexual services but had also to provide them or be prepared to do so.

Mr Carter-Manning submitted that the essence of the offence was the offer of sexual services in return for reward.

The words "prostitute" and "prostitution" were not defined in any statute. Their Lordships' attention had been drawn to dictionary definitions and *R v De Munck* (1918) 1 KB 635; *R v Webb* (1964) 1 QB 23 and *R v Morris-Lowe* (1985) 1 WLR 29.

In their Lordships' judgment, both the dictionary definitions and the cases showed that the crucial feature in defining prostitution was the making of an offer of sexual services for reward.

Mr Carne submitted that the true offence was not living on immoral earnings but that Miss Joseph was not acting by way of prostitution, she was acting dishonestly and could have been proceeded against for obtaining money by false pretences.

It might be that the appellant could have been proceeded against for conspiring with her to do so, or aiding and abetting her. Living on immoral earnings had not been made out.

He submitted also that the

mischief against which section 30 was aimed was the exploitation of women. Here the appellant was not exploiting Miss Joseph sexually, only dishonestly.

However, if his arguments were right, the mischief at which that and other statutes requiring proof of prostitution would be defeated. If it were a defence that the woman was acting as a clapper and not as a hooker, proof of such offences would be extremely difficult.

It would be necessary to prove not merely an offer of sexual services in a public place but that services were actually provided or, at the time of the offence, were intended to be provided.

The mischief being simply the harassment and nuisance to members of the public on the streets, the distinction between a clapper and a hooker was immaterial.

Their Lordships had no doubt that the ruling of the trial judge was both robust and correct, to adopt a phrase used by Mr Carter-Manning.

For a man to live on the earnings of a woman who habitually offered sexual services, took the money and then reneged on the offer, if she did, was, in their Lordships' view, to live off the earnings of prostitution, or, as it used to be termed, immoral earnings.

Indeed, most people would regard such earnings as doubly immoral.

The appeal was dismissed. Solicitors: CPS, London.

Court has no power to extend time

Middleton v Middleton

The court had no power to grant an extension of the 21-day time limit laid down in regulation 142 of the Civil Legal Aid (General) Regulations (SI 1989 No 339) in which a successful unsuccessful party to had file an affidavit of costs and resources in order to make an application for costs out of the legal aid fund.

The power to make extensions was vested only to the area director pursuant to regulation 7.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Balcombe, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Sir Tasker

Watkins) so held on December 14 in allowing an appeal brought by the Legal Aid Board from the decision of Mr Justice Thorpe on May 25, 1993 that the court had power to extend the time limit on appeal from District Judge Aldon on January 22, 1993.

LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON said that it was neither satisfactory nor appropriate that the power to make extensions lay not in the court but only in the area director.

His Lordship hoped that the Lord Chancellor might reconsider that aspect of the regulations.

Balancing protection of children and public interest

In re H (Minors) (Public Interest: Protection of Identity)

Before Lord Justice Neill and Mr Justice Ward

[Judgment December 21]

Although the fact that the court, with the support of a local authority, approved that young children remain in the care of a parent who was a transsexual and had undergone a sex change operation was a matter of public interest which the public interest in the protection of the children's identity was greater.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing the appeal of the respondent to the extent of varying the terms of the injunction of Judge Crowther, QC, which prevented the respondent talking or permitting any act likely to expose the children of the family to any form of publicity arising from the respondent's custody of

them and/or the respondent's transsexual and sex change operation until the date when the youngest child attained majority.

Mr Wyn Williams, QC and Miss Janet Tretham for the respondent, Miss Elizabeth Sewed for the petitioner.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL, giving the judgment of the court, said that the court accepted that the injunction in its present form was obscure, too widely drawn and could not stand in its present form. The judge had not been given the assistance he would have derived from *In re C (A Minor) (Wardship: Medical Treatment)* (No 2) (1990) Fam 39 and *In re M and N (Minors)* (Wardship: Publication of Information) (1990) Fam 213.

The court also found ample evidence that serious harm to the children from publicity of the present case was established. The important question was whether the respondents' freedom to pub-

lish a book on her experiences and the media's freedom to publish matters of public interest outweighed the risk of harm to the children.

It was now well established by *In re M and N* and *In re W (A Minor) (Wardship: Restrictions on Publication)* (1992) 1 WLR 100 that to such a situation the welfare of the children was not the paramount consideration, and there was no reason to depart from that view.

The facts of the case did disclose a matter of public interest which the media was entitled to publish and about which the public might legitimately debate and the court would not prevent the respondent amplifying the facts as set out in the judgment and adding comment to them.

When public interest turned to public curiosity as to the identity of the parties, and that became the focus of attention, then the public interest in the protection of the

children became the greater public interest and the interest of the children became the more important factor.

The access to and reporting of family proceedings was currently the subject of a review and a consultation paper was issued by the Lord Chancellor's Department in August 1993. It had to be emphasised that the balance between the competing and conflicting matters of public interest needed always to be held in delicate balance.

Although no challenge had been made that the county court had jurisdiction to make such an order, the question of an injunction in such a case was more a matter for the exercise of the High Court's inherent jurisdiction.

The President of the Family Division, Sir Stephen Brown, had authorised the court to say that in future where an injunction was sought, the effect of which was to impose a restraint on the freedom

of the Press and the media generally, such matter should be referred to the High Court in advance, never intending to provide the services.

The giving of any information by the respondent to the media and their soliciting information had to be strictly controlled so that the children knew about it in the better. Accordingly the respondent could not pursue any dealings with the media from the property at which she and the children lived or elsewhere in their presence. The communications had to respect the children's privacy.

Solicitors: Fonseca & Co, Ebbw Vale; Fraser Brown, Nottingham.

European Law Report

Luxembourg

Calculating driving and rest times

Charlton and Others Case C-416/92

Before M. Díez de Velasco, acting as President of the Sixth Chamber, and Judges F. A. Schockweiler, M. Zuleeg, P. J. G. Kapteyn and J. L. Murray

Advocate General W. Van Gerven (Opinion September 15) [Judgment December 15]

Where a driver, to whom the regulation on social legislation relating to road transport applied, had taken 45 minutes break either as a single break or as several breaks of at least 45 minutes during or at the end of a 4½ hour period, the calculation of driving and rest times was to begin afresh without taking account of the driving time and breaks the driver had previously completed.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held in replying to questions submitted to it by Manchester Crown Court for a preliminary ruling pursuant to article 177 of the EEC Treaty.

Manchester Crown Court was hearing appeals against convictions by the Heywood Magistrates' Court. The latter had convicted Mr Charlton, Mr Huyson and Mr Wilson for various infringements of articles 6(1), 7(1) and (2) and 8(1) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3820/85 of December 20, 1985 on the harmonisation of certain social legislation relating to road transport (OJ 1985 L370, p1) relating to drivers' hours and breaks.

Computers of driving period

According to the United Kingdom, the central issue underlying the national court's questions was how the 4½-hour period referred to

in article 7(1) of the regulation was to be interpreted and what the relationship was between that period and the daily driving period referred to in article 6(1) of the regulation.

Article 7(1), whose interpretation was requested by the national court, provided: "After four-and-a-half hours driving, the driver shall observe a break of at least 45 minutes, unless he begins a rest period." Article 7(2) provided that that break might be replaced "by breaks of at least 15 minutes each distributed over the driving period or immediately after this period."

The accused in the main proceedings, pointing to the ambiguous nature of those provisions, suggested that the Court should adopt the least restrictive interpretation.

Where a provision was insufficiently clear and explicit, its scope was to be determined by examining its objectives and the legal context in which it was to be applied.

The fourth recital in the preamble to the regulation showed that the limits set on driving times were intended to serve the interests of road safety. That was confirmed by article 12 of the regulation, which allowed a driver to depart from the provisions of the regulation, including article 7, in order to enable him to reach a suitable stopping place, provided that road safety was not thereby jeopardised.

It followed that article 7(1) and (2) of Regulation No 3820/85 could not be interpreted as authorising drivers to drive continuously for a period of more than 4½ hours. It was to be noted further that, in accordance with the first recital in

the preamble, the regulation made more flexible the provisions concerning the weekly and daily limits on driving periods and the rest periods.

Accordingly, it lengthened the driving periods provided for by articles 6(1) and 7(1) but at the same time lengthened the break provided for by article 7(1) and (2). In that context, any stricter limit on driving time had to be seen as an exception to the general objective pursued by the regulation of making the provisions more flexible and had therefore to be interpreted narrowly.

The interpretation advocated by the UK was contrary to the objective, set out in the first recital of the preamble to the regulation, of making the provisions of Regulation No 3820/85 more flexible. The calculation which it proposed to determine the breaks would end only on the expiry of the daily driving period or when the driver had taken a break of at least 45 minutes. That would lead in fact to the same driving period being counted twice where a driver divided the compulsory break.

Moreover, it was not consistent with the actual wording of article 7(2), which provided expressly that the 45-minute break which had to be taken after 4½ hours' driving under paragraph 1 might be replaced by breaks of at least 15 minutes each distributed over the driving period or immediately after that period.

When driving began

As regards the question as to the moment when the driving period began, it was to be noted that, according to the fifth recital in the preamble to Regulation No

3820/85, one of the objectives pursued by that regulation was to improve control of drivers' work.

The system to guarantee the effectiveness of such control was set up by Council Regulation (EEC) No 3821/85 of December 20, 1985 on the harmonisation of certain social legislation relating to road transport (OJ 1985 L370, p9).

The third recital in the preamble to that regulation stated that the only effective control of driving time and breaks provided for by article 7(1) and (2) of Regulation No 3820/85 was that achieved by means of the recording equipment provided for by Regulation No 3821/85.

On those grounds the European Court of Justice held:

1 Article 7(1) and (2) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3820/85 of December 20, 1985 on the harmonisation of certain social legislation relating to road transport were to be interpreted as prohibiting drivers to which it applied from driving continuously for more than 4½ hours. But where a driver had taken 45 minutes break either as a single break or as several breaks of at least 15 minutes during or at the end of a 4½-hour period, the calculation provided for by article 7(1) of the regulation was to begin afresh, without taking into account the driving time and breaks previously completed by the driver.

2 The calculation provided for by article 7(1) of Regulation No 3820/85 began at the moment when the driver set in motion the recording equipment provided for by Council Regulation (EEC) No 3821/85 of December 20, 1985 on recording equipment in road transport and began driving.

No VAT payable on surrender of lease

Lubbock Fine & Co v Commissioners of Customs and Excise Case C-63/92

Before O. Due, President and Judges J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, M. Díez de Velasco, D. A. O. Edwards, C. N. Kallouris, R. Joliet, F. Grévisse, M. Zuleeg and P. J. G. Kapteyn

Advocate General M. Darnott (Opinion June 30) [Judgment December 15]

The relations created by a lease could not be broken up in such a way that member states were allowed to tax a transaction terminating a lease where the grant of that lease was compulsorily exempt.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held in replying to questions submitted to it by a London Value Added Tax Tribunal for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EEC Treaty.

Those questions had been raised in connection with an appeal by a firm of chartered accountants, Lubbock Fine & Co, against an assessment to VAT made by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise in respect of the consideration received by Lubbock Fine for the surrender of a lease. In 1971, Lubbock Fine had taken a lease of premises for 25 years and one quarter. The premises were subsequently sold and, in 1990, Lubbock Fine entered into an agreement with the new landlord

under which Lubbock Fine surrendered the residue of the lease and returned the premises to the landlord with effect from June 1, 1990.

The latter paid Lubbock Fine £850,000 by way of consideration for the surrender. The Commissioners took the view that under the relevant United Kingdom legislation, the Value Added Tax Act 1983, as amended by the Finance Act 1989, VAT was chargeable on Lubbock Fine in the sum of £10,869.55.

Item 1 of Group 1 of Schedule 6 to the 1983 Act, as amended, exempted from VAT "the grant of any interest in or right over land or of any licence to occupy land..."

It followed from that provision, read in conjunction with an explanatory note, that in the United Kingdom the letting or subletting of immovable property and the assignment of a lease of immovable property were in principle exempt transactions. However, the surrender of a lease to the tenant's immediate landlord was excluded from that exemption.

In support of its appeal to the VAT tribunal, Lubbock Fine contended that the provision excluding surrenders from the scope of the exemption was contrary to article 138 of the Sixth Council Directive of May 17, 1977 (77/388/EEC) on the harmonisation of the laws of the member states relating to turnover taxes, common system of value-added tax: uniform basis of assess-

ment (OJ 1977 L145, p1), the Sixth Directive.

Taking the view that Lubbock Fine's liability to tax in respect of the consideration paid was dependent on the interpretation to be given to article 138 of the Sixth Directive, the VAT Tribunal decided to refer three questions to the European Court for a preliminary ruling.

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held as follows:

Letting of immovable property

The essence of the first question put by the national court was whether the term "letting of immovable property" used in article 138(b) of the Sixth Directive to define an exempt transaction covered the case where a tenant, for consideration, surrendered his lease and returned the immovable property to his immediate landlord.

Where a given transaction, such as the letting of immovable property, which would be taxed on the basis of the rents paid, fell within the scope of an exemption provided for by the Sixth Directive, a change to the contractual relationship, such as the termination of the lease for reasons falling within the scope of that exemption.

The power to tax exempt transactions

The exemption for the letting of immovable property, authorised them to tax the consideration paid by one party to the other in connection with the surrender of the lease where the rent paid under the lease was exempt from VAT.

Article 138 allowed member states to exclude certain types of letting from the scope of the exemption and hence to subject them to tax. However, it could not be construed as allowing them to tax a transaction terminating a lease where the grant of that lease was compulsorily exempt. The relations created by a lease could not be broken up in that way.

In view of the answers to the first two questions, it was unnecessary to reply to the tribunal's third question.

On those grounds, the European Court ruled:

1 The term "letting of immovable property" used in article 138(b) of the Sixth Council Directive of May 17, 1977, to define an exempt transaction covered the case where a tenant surrendered his lease and returned the immovable property to his immediate landlord.

2 Article 138(b) of the Sixth Directive, which allowed member states to apply further exclusions to the scope of the exemption for the letting of immovable property, did not authorise them to tax the consideration paid by one party to the other in connection with the surrender of the lease where the rent paid under the lease was exempt from VAT.

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330	330	Phos Am Fertil	328	-1	208	Woodside	175	...	2.0	...

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16	136 TR City Of Low	165	+ 3	...	3.6	36.0	30	160	Cropper Jmstn	64	...	3.2 13.6
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30	130 TR Pacific	239	+ 5	...	0.2	...	95	51	Delroy Gmstn	109	...	1.6 7.3 19.0

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35	18	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
36	19	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
37	20	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
38	21	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
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42	25	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
43	26	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
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48	31	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
49	32	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
50	33	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
51	34	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
52	35	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
53	36	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
54	37	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
55	38	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
56	39	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
57	40	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
58	41	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
59	42	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
60	43	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
61	44	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
62	45	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
63	46	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
64	47	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
65	48	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
66	49	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
67	50	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
68	51	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
69	52	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
70	53	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
71	54	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
72	55	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
73	56	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
74	57	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
75	58	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
76	59	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
77	60	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
78	61	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
79	62	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
80	63	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
81	64	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
82	65	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
83	66	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
84	67	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
85	68	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
86	69	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
87	70	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
88	71	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
89	72	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
90	73	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
91	74	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
92	75	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
93	76	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
94	77	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
95	78	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
96	79	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
97	80	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
98	81	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
99	82	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25
100	83	Trk. Low	131	...	1.7	1.6	47	120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	2.3	54	25

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92	Capitol	99	+ 8	139	40	294	Smith David	400
93	Capitol Radio	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	295	Smith David	400	2.1 2.0
94	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	296	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
95	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	297	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
96	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	298	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
97	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	299	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
98	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	300	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
99	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	301	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
100	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	302	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
101	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	303	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
102	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	304	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
103	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	305	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
104	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	306	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
105	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	307	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
106	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	308	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
107	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	309	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
108	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	310	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
109	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	311	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
110	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	312	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
111	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	313	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
112	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	314	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
113	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	315	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
114	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	316	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
115	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	317	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
116	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	318	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
117	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	319	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
118	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	320	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
119	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	321	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
120	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	322	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
121	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	323	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
122	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	324	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
123	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	325	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
124	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	326	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
125	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	327	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
126	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	328	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
127	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	329	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0
128	Capitol	328	+ 6	5.7	2.5	330	Smith David	400	...	...	2.1 2.0

175	Eurocom	232	+ 1	9.7	5.3	9.6	160	43	Wyr	92	...	...	14.3
261	Euro Disney	373	...	...	3.1	...	140	63	Wyr	140	- 1	...	17.2
14	Euro Leasing	25	...	...	...	...	160	302	Washington D	240	...	...	18.3
15	E-Leasing	3%	...	...	1.2	...	418	270	Wilmington	410	...	...	15.33.1
248	Fairchild	1058	- 3	...	...	...	7	3	Werners	3	- 5	...	...
232	First Leasing	294	+ 1	6.2	2.3	19.7	34	15	Whitney Mktg	29	...	...	...
230	GWR GMA	675	- 1	...	1.7	...	96	95	Wyndham	96	+ 3	...	1.9 20.8

149	Grampian	225	...	6.5	3.5	15.9
41	Greenwich Canal	15	...	...	...	...
10	HTV Group	116	...	...	...	67.1
30	Hi-Tec Sports	62	...	...	4.8	...
5	Keweenaw	111	...	1
408	LWT Hedges	623	1.0	25.8

PROPERTY

116	All Allied Inc.	100	4.0	28.3
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37	Martian	539	+ 4 ...	4.8	21.8								
37	Northern	375	...			47	35	Arcadian	37	+ 1 ...			
59	Owensboro	81	...	3.9	6.8	164	4	Aspen Ridge	6				
33	The Pelicans Gp.	71	...			135	52	Austin	134			2.0	14.1
35	Prison Lighthouse	178	...			L58	88	Avonside	140	...	4.1	3.6	20.4
16	Quadrant Gry	38	+ 2 ...			263.74	206.2	BCEA	2225	...			
224	Radio Clyde	405	...			670	99	Bilboa	...	...	18.9	3.8	22.8

102	Roots	205	...	27	27.2	260	17	Bourke	121	...	1.1	...
410	Sci TV	454	-1	10.3	29.23	21	19	Bradford	73	...	5.9	31.20
37	Southern Radio	65	+2	1.2	2.4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
168	Sunday Express	304	+4	4.3	1.8	24.0	249	166	Re Land	...	...	...
5	Sunlight	8	...	...	...	...	45	162	Winton	235	+2	...
115	Sunrise & Vine	128	...	3.8	2.4	14.5	90	42	Burford	964	...	1.7
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	99	Can. & Remo	190	1.2	...	0.9

70	1	26.7	...	...	...	136	Camille Prop	100	...	2.4	1.5	...
84	1	26.7	...	...	...	135	Castlefield	595	...	11.5	2.4	42.6
44	1	26.7	...	...	...	43	City She Arts	36	...	...	...	...
224	1	518	...	12.0	29	12	Clarke Nichols	34	...	...	...	...
62	1	113	...	0.6	0.9	265	Compos	85	...	12.9	6.0	61.5
11	1	17	...	...	...	34	Conrad Rides	44	...	...	...	...

110 Yorkshire Tv	151	...	12.0	9.9	4.6
83 Zeiglers Gp	113	...	8.0	2.3	12.8
1403	518	Danglu	1438	...	2.3 18.0
130	9	Buena Estates	130	...	2.9 25.3
13	4	De Morgan	10	...	2.1
180	76	Dembora	177	...	3.0 2.1
666	263	Dewerdt Holdings	664	...	8.7 1.6
45	10	Development Set 34	...	...	...

1800 Am Gold	5890	+100 ...	17	20.7
5019 Ang Am Coal	1562 ¹ / ₂	+18 ¹ / ₂ ...	18	8.3
1125 Ang Int	2652 ¹ / ₂	... ..	23	26.2
5 Anglo Pac Res	29 ¹ / ₂	... ..	35	...
33 Trans Rte	185	+ 7 ...	...	...
56 Dwyer	56 1	... ..	...	...
70 Estemar Agency	400	... ..	...	2.4 47.5
77 Estamar Gen	18	... ..	...	...
53 Evans of Leeds	214 1	2.8 18.9
3 Five Oaks	23 ¹ / ₂
30 Flaming King	30	+ 4	1.0 1.9 24.0
276 Flanders	488

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7	Dornblomsen	40	+15		299	122	Hendriks	298	2.1	10.7
389	Defosene	662	+25	3.1	17.0	39	19	Herringsway	36	
120	Durbin	733	+18			136	16	Herring-Baker	60	...	\$7	7.5 15.1
47	R. Rand "Gold"	145	+10	7.4	4.3	103	13	Hervy	130	...		
35	E. Rand Prop.	52	+8			181	30	Lane S.	792	+5	22.1	37 23.6
116	E. Rasmussen	55	...	-4.5	-11.8	200	43	Lane S.	792	...	40	47 16.5
						114	73	Lon Mendi See	107	...		
						225	3	W. J. L. Metro	.11	...		

71% 2000	1083	493	...	2.9	16.2	565	317% MEPC	548.1	-2	...	4.6	38.6
28% PS	...	...	...	4.3	14.2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8 FS Dev	33	+	...	...	...	8	McIntney A	...	...	...	...	...
72% GPSA	1480	-50	...	2.1	25.1	165	93 McKay Secs	164	...	2.5	2.7	22.3
65% Genor	127	...	...	6.9	14.4	74	23 Marchetti	24	...	...	...	...
35% GM Kalpouri	564	...	...	2.4	23.1	81	12 Mervale Mre	80	...	...	...	...
8 Greenwell & W	141	...	...	...	...	53	20 Moorfield Est	53	...	...	...	...

49	Greenville	150	+7	...	67	9.4	150	715	Montevideo	128	...	220	23	27.4
50	Hampton	143	+3	...	71	...	143	715	Montevideo	128	...	220	23	27.4
51	Harper	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
52	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
53	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
54	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
55	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
56	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
57	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
58	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
59	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
60	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
61	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
62	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
63	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
64	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
65	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
66	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
67	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
68	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
69	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
70	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
71	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
72	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
73	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
74	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
75	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
76	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
77	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
78	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
79	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
80	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
81	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
82	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
83	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
84	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
85	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
86	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
87	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
88	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
89	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
90	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
91	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
92	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
93	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
94	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
95	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
96	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
97	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
98	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
99	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...
100	Hampton	173	+17	...	73	14.0	53	30	Other Prop	30	...	...	...	...

319	Kloof	762	...	3.1	10.7	48	22	Property Trust	42	...	...	12.0
25	Lestie	119	+ ?	...	...	33	33	Baglan	40	...	...	...
13	Loraine	530	...	...	...	30	1	Registan	30	...	...	...
630	Ludenberg	950	...	...	2.3	...	110	Rouvinson Secs	140	...	L.5	1.3 17.5
60	MIM	119+	+ 3	...	19	58.5	46	St Andrew Ptp	92	...	0.9	3.3 36.6
60	Mitosen	1359	-22	...	2.9	16.0	39	Sevlin	92	...	...	1.4 36.6
...	...	...	...	...	...	112	33	Sec. Met	102	+ 1	...	1.4 36.6

6174 Orange Pine	27125	-656	...	31	25.8	118	30	Shorebury	118	...	...	...
607 WZ	790	+	...	6.1	21.9	15	5	Sheld	114	...	...	6.0
1054 Rand Mines	2124	...	...	31	22.3	280	1394	Sough Estates	290	...	...	3.8 19.5
150 Rand/Winter	692	+26	...	5	16	101	56	Southern Prop	50	...	...	3.1 ...
115 Renium	128	+ 4	...	19	23.6	39	16	Stanhope Prop	25	...	...	...
250 Frostberg	...	...	...	27	...	226	114	Tanaka Iron	225	...	21	1.2 82.0

1971	St. Helena	670	+16	...	26	143	156	-	1	...	25	73.6	
1975	Southwest	2125	+19	...	2.6	48.9	43	Trinidad Park	556	-	1	...	36.22
1978	Stillaguish	89	+1	...	6.9	16.3	56	17 Uland	31	...	9	...	
1979	Union	169	+19	...	6.9	16.3	12	4 Union Square	9	...	...	...
1980	Van Wert	5000	+200	...	3.1	17.7	303	180 Warner	293	...	10.4	4.6	
1981	Walla Walla	700	+10	...	6.1	12.9	219	168 Waukegan	218	...	7.5	4.4	
20	Wesport Area	590	+7	...	4.4	21.0	8	3 Waveridge	2	-	4	...	

58 1/2 Western Deep	2037	+21 1/2	20 14.8	55	34 Water	80 1/2	...	...	...
178 Western Mining	311	+1 1/2	1.5	43	40 Wood John D.	80 1/2	...	...	...
323 Winkles	1058	+9	3.8						
49 Zambis Copper	33	...	...				
18 Zaindjan	66	...	6.4	33.7					

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT									
233	Abbey Panels	233	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
95	Airflow Stream	115	...	...	3.8	3.3	11.1	...	...

78	Appareys	146	...	...	4.6	...	...	1.1	...
203	Blackley Mir	300	+ 5	...	23	16.8	...	...	...
128	Neutron	180	...	...	6.0	4.2	31.8	...	...
145	Rr Auswipen	493	...	...	3.3	2.3	...	...	...
194	Woundent	51	+ 1	...	1.7	8.3	...	...	...
303	Caflrys	413	1	...	11.5	3.6	21.0	...	...
44	Caverdale	134	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

98	Central Africa	125	...	...	...	41	31.3	521	408	Africa West	514	+ 1	12.7	3.1	16.5
18	Cont. (DC)	35	1	...	...	2.3	19.9	- 69	54	Brazilian (A)	57	- 1	3.8	7.9	..
136	Cowrie (T)	284	+ 2	6.6	2.9	23.6	41	31	Bolson G.	28	- 1	...	...	...	...
60	Dog Monks	125	...	5.7	3.8	24.6	180	141	Rt. Meinhard	183	+ 7	3.8	5.5	17.1	...
103	Europan Vist	245	...	...	...	18.3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
103	ELF	276	...	3.8	0.9	...	33	15	Chavrelle	35	...	...	...	...	...
103	Therapsen Mix	138	...	...	...	...	364	298	Charenton Ga	340	...	7.5	2.3	21.3	...

201	FRS Highway	408	+1	11.6	3.8	62.9	401	449	Corvairs Test	451	+3	13.9	3.9	12.3
202	FR Group	235	...	...	2.3	10.9	529	245	Cupidia	451	...	...	...	...
205	Ford Motor	4318*	-75	...	...	...	249	130	Demon	136	...	...	7.0	10.4
214	General Mtr	3675	-50	...	1.4	...	260	22	Drummond	35	...	...	...	...
22	Gowings	60	...	...	2.8	8.3	40	40	Harpele	80	...	...	...	12.1
40	Hendry	275	+1	3.1	1.8	...	34	15	Pomer (Gaul)	25	...	...	...	...
76	Kenzie Motor	576	-34	...	1.8	...	133	63	Quaint	114	...	...	4.2	4.7

15	Jacks (Wm)	95	...	...	...	225	136	Pickering (Pratt)	235	1	...	...	2.3	16.7
66	Rehman	80	...	2.3	6.5	93	45	Jermore (S)	60	...	...	...	0.4	...
97	Smith-P	158*	...	...	...	422	249	Lamont	395	...	13.8	38	26.1	...
281	Lex Service	448	...	...	...	512	353	Leach	506	...	5.5	11	...	...
88	Lonkers	162	...	6.2	4.3	15	11	Litter	30	...	...	...	...	...
128	Lucas	194	...	...	...	152	75	Lyler (S)	40	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	215	89	Magellan	20	...	1.4	0.2	...	...

2247, Portland	201	...	...	...	714	77, Portland	180	...	...	...	...
2248, Perry Co	175	...	...	...	1022	40, Portland	97	+	3	...	...
190, Quicks Group	156	...	...	1.8	109	51, SEER	130	...	...	...	...
96, Kell-Boyer	165	...	...	...	...	72, SHER	...	...	...	...	...
64, T & N	203	...	...	...	...	87, Siding Co	027	...	...	...	...
163, Trinity Hedges	253	+	3	...	...	35, Siphon	...	...	...	...	...
				...	...	250, Tisham	25	...	...	...	...

128 Variety (cnp)	162	...	...	2.3	22.8		
129 Workland	253	+1	2.3	2.3	...		
						59	30% West. Trans
						37	T
					
						...	9.1
						250	136 Yorktype
						248	...
						...	2.7
							16.3

NEWS, PUBLISHERS

TOBACCOS

183	Adorne	190	...	2.0	3.2	22.1	
315	Black (M&C)	238	...	13.5	2.0	17.7	547% 627 BAT
290	Brickhead Gp	306	...	3.8	11.5		547% 0 8 ... 4.4 16.4
275	Brincol	367 1	...	4.1	33.1		
7775	Daily Mail	1,113	...	1.7	26.1		
7700	Daily Mail 'A'	1,124	...	1.7	26.0		

TRANSPORT

230 Learning curve	263	1	...	1.8	23.8				
4330 Wheeler	351	...	...	1.5	2.8				
322 MAAP	426	...	...	1.5	2.8				
873 Entrepreneur Pk	1470	+ 7	...	3.1	25.5				
110 Harrington K	1421	...	4.7	2.4	14.1				
1559 Brynnes Pk	326	...	2.0	18.5					
304 Hendler Estate	348	...	5.1	19	28.9				
545 Assoc Rtr Ports	545	+ 3	...	2.0	...				
1048 707 BAA	1048	+ 7	...	2.0	26.0				
455 707 Rtr Airways	454	+ 3	...	2.0	20.3				
565 Clarkston Ch	564	+ 3	...	1.7	2.0				
335 Burnfield Ust	340	- 4	...	0.5	...				
66 Valley Dammed	2	...	...	0.5	...				

[illegible]

967	News Int'l	635	+13	...	0.6	...	77	40 Ocean World	73	...	4.0	6.0	12.0
968	News Int'l	234	...	...	0.3	...	60	40 P O DRI	660	+5	...	1.6	35.8
969	News Int'l	635	+3	...	2.3	33.0	140	127 P O DRI	163	...	...	...	...
970	News Int'l	635	...	...	1.8	15.5	140	127 P O DRI	163	...	...	...	...
971	News Int'l	635	...	...	2.4	39.5	137	448 P O DRI	637	+3	...	4.3	20.2
972	News Int'l	635	...	...	1.6	34.8	138	117 Satech	233	...	...	...	...
973	News Int'l	635	...	...	2.4	10.4	162	112 Satech	151	+4	...	2.0	14.7
974	News Int'l	635	...	...	1.6	34.8	138	117 Satech	233	...	...	...	...
975	News Int'l	635	...	...	2.4	10.4	162	112 Satech	151	+4	...	2.0	14.7

318	Telegraph	785	...	1.1	20.5				
319	Thomson Corp	797	...	30.1	47.3	98.7			
320	Timber Ind	...	+ 2	9.0	2.6	20.1			
21	Unit Grupppe	21							
680	Unit Newspape	655	+10	...	6.1	12.3			
918	634 Tropic & Wm	915	+ 2	...	12.6	17.3	31.3		
322	33 Timpbok	76							
298	227 TDG	294	+ 2	...	6.3	9.4			

OILS, GAS					WATER								
17 Arab Super	26	-	1	...	25.5	610	455 Arabian Water	607	-	1	...	4.3	12.1
37 Arab Med	33	+	1	...	...	347	244 Mid East Hops	345	1	...	...	1.9	17.7
41 Arab L.A.G.	39			...	...	761	547 Nourambrich	723	-	0	...	3.9	16.2
						604	431 North West	594	1	...	...	3.9	8.8

26	Arising Post	57	...	...	...	632	499	Seventy Trees	018	...	...	4.6
26	Arising Post	57	...	...	...	685	454	Slum Water	662	...	...	4.6
145	Br Boncon	201	...	...	...	1005	1225	Stn South	1525	...	...	4.1 10.8
226	British Gas	3384	+ 2	14.2	5.2	164	637	South West	643	- 1	...	4.7 10.6
225	Br. Petroleum	361	+ 1	2.4	2.9	28.4	545	Thames Water	582	- 1	...	4.6 11.4
1	Julia Resources	1%	...	...	...	...	738	Wells Water	718	- 6	...	4.2 7.2

32	Burnish Coal	627	1	..	8A	19.3	741	535 Western Water	730	-	2	...	3.8	11.6
35	Calma Energy	595	1	..	..	8.0	600	473 Yorkshire W	019 7	-	1	...	4.4	10.3
223	Calor Gas	316	..	..	..	4.7	17.2							
34	Clyde Pst	47	+	..	..	..	..			
27	Compass Res	30	-	1	..	..	..				
105	Edin Oil & Gas	17	..	..	..	..	..		

39	SourceRank	38	2	...	4.3	24.7
19	Buy Co Leads	24	...	...	...	...
10	Performance Int	22	...	...	...	...
4	Forecast	6	...	...	4.0	8.1
41	Good Pct	5	1.4	52.3
15	GM Western Int	31

Source: FINRA

1: Price at suspension; 2: Alt dividend; 3: %
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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2000; 284: 2689-2694.

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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be addressed. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

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Buy-back at Optare rescues 350 jobs

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

MANAGERS at Optare, the Leeds bus-maker, have completed a buy-back of the company in a move that safeguards 350 jobs.

The future of Optare, which produces about 300 buses a year and accounts for a quarter of the UK market, had been uncertain since the collapse of United Bus, its Dutch parent, in October.

The company had continued to trade normally while directors negotiated the purchase of the company from the Dutch receiver of United Bus.

Russell Richardson, managing director, said: "It's been a rough time all round, but we have come through it very well and we are looking forward to the future."

He praised the commitment of Optare's employees, banks, customers and suppliers during the period since the collapse of United Bus.

The company said it had a substantial forward order book for buses and coaches, and announced that it would be extending its product range after the buy-back, with the introduction of additional full-size, single-deck models.

United's financial difficulties appear to have been compounded by the collapse earlier this year of DAF, which had a 35 per cent stake in the company.

Optare, previously named Charles H. Roe, was first revived by Mr. Richardson and his colleagues after they bought the assets from British Leyland in 1985.

The company has many continental European contacts, which the management hopes will continue to provide orders.



Richardson: rough time



Senior Salvation Army officers believe uncertainty over the case is causing discord in the ranks and raising doubts in the minds of donors

Salvation Army fears fraud enquiry will hit cash appeal

By Robert Miller

THE Salvation Army is becoming increasingly concerned that a continuing investigation by the Charity Commissioners into a £6 million fraud perpetrated on army funds could damage its crucial Door Knock appeal in February.

Senior officers believe that the continuing uncertainty surrounding the case is raising doubts in the minds of donors about how their money is handled and is also affecting staff morale.

It was in February this year, right in the middle of the annual appeal month, that the Salvation Army, which is the largest provider of social services in the UK after the Government, announced that it had fallen victim to a sophisticated fraud.

To date, only £500,000 has been recovered. However, Slaughter & May, the solicitor acting on behalf of the Salvation Army, has traced assets held within the UK as well as in Germany, The Netherlands and America, where an expensive property in Malibu has been identified.

Funds raised in the Door Knock appeal are used to provide additional services over the Christmas holiday period. Salvation Army officers also give part of February's salary to the appeal.

A spokeswoman for the Salvation Army said: "Christmas is a time when our resources are stretched to the utmost limit. On top of the army's vast social welfare programme, it suddenly has to come up with seasonal extras for more than 1,000 centres right across the country. We provide Christmas lunches for the elderly, parties and toys for underprivileged children and general help to hard-up families. It is enormously demanding on finances, and if we have a poor annual Door Knock appeal, we would have to cut back next year."

Officers participating in this year's (1993) Door Knock appeal received a mixed reception on the doorsteps following news of the fraud.

Some donors were sym-

thetic, but others refused to give after hearing of the loss of the funds. Immediately after the revelation, the army commissioned a report by Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, into the affair, which was passed to the Charity Commissioners in April.

Under the 1992 Charities Act, the Charity Commissioners, who have much wider ranging powers over the UK's 172,000 charities than previously, are still investigating the Salvation Army's case. A spokeswoman for the Charity Commissioners said: "We have no idea when the report will be published."

The army has dismissed Colonel Grenville Burn and moved the top three officers, including John Larsson, UK Territorial Commander, to other posts.

The case is by far the largest enquiry currently being undertaken by the Charity Commissioners, who can now call on an investigation department staffed by 55 people, and their report is certain to cause a stir when it is published. It will contain a number of key recommendations for checks and balances to prevent a recurrence.

The Metropolitan and City Police's Company Fraud Department is also investigating the Salvation Army case. A senior officer on the squad described the case as complex. "Our enquiries will be continuing for some time, and no charges are contemplated yet."



Larsson: moved

Booming stock markets give boost to bonuses

By Patricia Tehan and Michael Clark

SHARES closed at or near record closing highs around the world on Christmas Eve, bringing the chance of record bonuses closer for dealers in the main markets of London and New York.

The London stock market extended its record-breaking run in the shortened trading session on Christmas Eve. Share prices raced ahead in thin trading, with hopes of a cut in interest rates soon continuing to fuel investors.

The FT-SE 100 index ended on Friday near its best of the day in spite of the closure of Wall Street and most of the European bourses. It ended 15.3 points up, at an all-time closing high of 3,412.3, a rise on the week of almost 76 points.

In Hong Kong on Friday, the Hang Seng index climbed

above 11,000 points for the first time. In Frankfurt on Thursday, the Dax closed at a record 2,222.84.

Although market-led bonuses are biggest for American players, London branches of US banks are benefiting. Goldman Sachs, the New York-based investment bank, is paying generous bonuses to staff in London.

Last month, it emerged that 70 Goldman executives, including 26 partners, are to receive at least \$1 million each. Goldman's 161 partners, 26 of whom are in London, will all receive a minimum profit share of \$5 million this year.

Those below the level of partner have been told they will get annual bonuses equal to at least 30 per cent of basic pay. Salomon Brothers said it would pay high bonuses in

Big earners back on Wall St

HIGH earners are returning to Wall Street, but the class of '94 is a different breed to the Eighties' crowd (Philip Robinson writes from New York).

This year's young brokers are the richest since 1989 with base salaries of \$50,000-\$200,000, bolstered by bonuses for traders, and those in bids and

deals, of \$2 million-\$5 million. Windle Pien, of Korn Ferry International, the recruitment agency, said: "We are busier than in 1991 or 1992, and doing about 70 per cent of 1988 and 1989. The big difference is that firms gave three-year contracts in the Eighties—you get no more than a year today."

London. Most executives are thought to have doubled their salaries. Top performers are believed to have been told they will get in excess of \$1 million.

Staff at Smith New Court are feeling confident of receiving 100 per cent bonuses after enjoying a massive turnaround in fortunes this year, fuelled

by a surging London stock market. The securities firm acknowledges that markets have been kind, but SNC has also benefited from its exposure to the world's booming smaller markets.

SNC has built up a strong presence in Southeast Asian markets and is planning its

next phase of expansion into China and the Indian subcontinent.

SNC shares have risen by 250 per cent this year, making SNC the best-performing stock of the top 500 companies on the stock market.

Although SNC does not pay bonuses until June, after the May year-end, Michael Marks, chief executive, has said that if current trends continued, the bonuses are likely to be attractive. In the first half year, SNC recorded a 367 per cent leap in pre-tax profits to £31.1 million. Mr Marks said markets had been kind to everybody in the business.

UBS is also thought likely to pay 100 per cent bonuses. Cazenove, the London broker, is understood to have declared an 80 per cent bonus for the third quarter of 1993.

Stock market report, page 30

Welcome to Bjelke's world

MY AUSTRALIAN sources bring news of Sir John Bjelke-Petersen, who enjoyed a controversial 19-year reign as premier of Queensland, until he was ousted in 1987. Sir John, now 82, is planning to turn his farm in central Queensland into a theme park, Bjelke World, complete with family museum, peanut threshing machine and news footage from his political career. There are also plans to sell peanut-embellished T-shirts sporting a "Don't You Worry About That" logo—to cite the former premier's usual response to journalists who dared ask him a question. He and his wife, Florence, were known as the "Flo And Jo Show" in their day, and have

already had some commercial success with Flo's Country Kitchen, a pumpkin soup franchise. Sir John says he began thinking about the project after loads of admirers began pitching up on his doorstep. What next? Thatcher Towers?

Staying put

FRANK Davidson, top-rated food retailing analyst at James Capel, is at the centre of an unseasonal dispute. I hear that he had accepted a job offer from Kleinwort Benson, and

was all set to triple his earnings with a basic salary of £120,000 plus guaranteed bonus of £60,000. The papers were signed, the starting date was agreed... and Davidson changed his mind. He is staying at Capel after all. To say this has caused consternation would be an understatement.

Granada, Granada

GRANADA, still in the throes of its £600 million bid for LWT, is—as its target never ceases to point out—a conglomerate. Do the folks

who watch *Coronation Street* realise that it is made by the same company they rent their TVs and video recorders from? Do they realise that it also runs motorway service stations? And how many of them think it is Spanish? The Spanish connection does exist—the former Lord (Sydney) Bernstein, the company's founder, had a home in Andalusia. In southern Spain, and named his company after the region's ancient capital. So proud of the name was he that he tried to sue Ford when it first at-

tached the Granada name to its top-of-the-range cars.

Six of diamonds

SIR Simon Hornby, who retired as chairman of WH Smith at the end of January, after a 12-year reign, is planning a stylish exit. He has just presided over the WH Smith Illustration Awards for 1993, which saw artist Tony Mearns win first prize for his "pack of cards", which took four years to complete. Sir Simon, a former chairman of The Design Council,

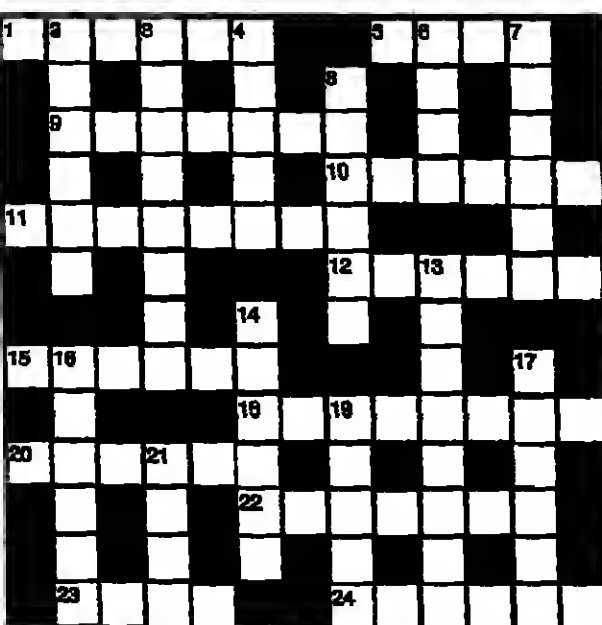
has decided to use the Six of Diamonds on the cover of the group's interim results, which he is due to unveil before he steps down in favour of his deputy, Jeremy Hardie. By all accounts, Sir Simon is already getting in the mood for retirement. At the awards presentation, he was proudly sporting a Mickey Mouse tie.

Age of innocence?

WE KNOW we said "no more Christmas cards", but Brums'wick, the high-profile City PRs run by Alan Parker, had a decidedly low-profile card this year—a beautiful little number with an illustration from William Blake's *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*. Experience, yes; but innocence? A PR company?

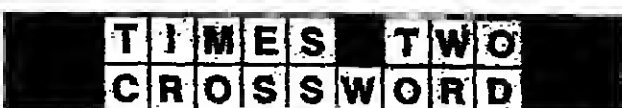
JON ASHWORTH

THE TIMES CITY DIARY



SOLUTION TO CHRISTMAS JUMBO CONCISE CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1 Lord's Day Observance Society 15 Relayed 16 Extemporise 17 Nairobi 18 Eyepieces 19 Aerobic 20 Foot broke 21 Catch on 23 Instill 24 Paypzi 26 Asset 28 Lanky 29 Willing for 31 All good fun 34 Long Range Desert Group patrol 39 Melange 41 Turn fifty 43 As diagram 45 Unwritten 46 Substance 47 Gules in 48 Around The World In Eighty Days 53 Convoluted 55 Purposeful 57 Bogue 59 Climb 61 Tattle 62 Asthma 64 Nemesis 66 Abolition 68 Astler 69 Spare pair 71 Eyewash 72 Bachchania 73 Asocial 74 On opposite sides of the fence



No 47

ACROSS

- 1 Small Asian ape (6)
- 5 Flyer: prison term (4)
- 9 Corresponds (7)
- 10 JSC reformist MP thrice expelled from Parliament (6)
- 11 Distinct (8)
- 12 Paris museum (6)
- 15 Discontinuous (6)
- 18 Style of speaking (8)
- 20 Home of the Two Gentlemen (6)
- 22 State of which Munich is capital (7)
- 23 Adopt lazy pose (4)
- 24 Type of engine, ignited by compression (6)

DOWN

- 2 Understand by insight (6)
- 3 Cistern water-level control (8)
- 4 Unwanted sound (5)
- 6 Graven image (4)
- 7 Stuff corner of page (3-3)
- 8 Also (2,4)
- 13 Totality of creation (8)
- 14 S African native conference (6)
- 16 Showing sorrow (6)
- 17 Fold mark (6)
- 19 Blue, as of bruise (5)
- 21 Shape of Surrey cricket ground (4)

DOWN: 1 Large-scale 2 Rallentando 3 Stylistically 4 Asdic 5 Overspill 6 Satraps 7 Remarriages 8 Amoeba 9 Chitchat 10 Sheaf 11 Cartoning up 12 Epic beano 13 Yoo-hoo 14 Disentanglement 22 Newsagent 25 Yolk of an egg 27 No profit 30 In derision 32 Furrows 33 Ugly snazzy 35 Gentian 36 Get on reiser 37 Availed 38 Ambulance chaser 40 Low down 42 Fabulous 44 Digital 49 Trusteeship 50 Impassioned 51 Yugoslavian 52 Escadrille 54 Obligate 56 Flagstaff 57 Bumped off 58 Clear cut 60 Issue to 63 Hurdles 65 Meshes 67 Tubes 70 Awash



By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Gufeld - Conquest, Hastings Premier 1986/87. The Black king is in a tight corner. How can White capitalise on this? This year's Hastings Premier takes place at the Cinque Ports Hotel in Hastings from 29th December to 6th January. Ring 0424 445348 for details. Raymond Keene, page 6 Solution, page 30

By Philip Howard

NIPSHOT
a. Frost-bitten
b. A bosh shot
c. Japanese chilli sauce

DIMEROUS
a. In two parts
b. Deserving
c. Penflogging
EBRILLADE
a. A one-handed jerk
b. Cheerfulness
c. The annual vine-pruning

Answers on page 30

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